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UNIV. OF TORONTO

COUNTRY LIFE

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All communications should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager, "COUNTRY LIFE," Southampton Street, Strand, London.

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Modern amenities.

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Telephone No.:
Regent 4304.

OSBORN & MERCER

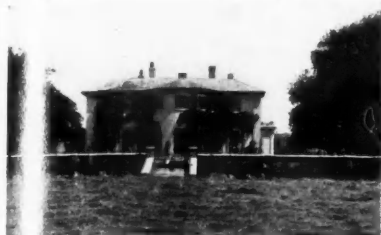
28b, ALBEMARLE STREET,
PICCADILLY, W.1.

MEMBERS OF THE CHARTERED SURVEYORS' AND AUCTIONEERS' INSTITUTES

BEAUTIFUL PART OF SURREY

Idyllic situation with uninterrupted views to Leith Hill and North Downs.

A FINE OLD GEORGIAN HOUSE
up to date. In first-class order.



Hall, 4 reception, 7-9 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.
Main services. 2 excellent cottages.

Gardens and grounds of outstanding merit, including park-like meadowland; a stream and 2 large ponds providing excellent coarse fishing; in all about

22 ACRES

For Sale by Messrs. OSBORN & MERCER. (17,099.)

AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT

1½ HOURS NORTH OF TOWN

Well-let Block of Farms in first-class Dairy Country, producing over

£700 PER ANNUM

Company's water. Tithe free.
For Sale by OSBORN & MERCER.

SALOP-CHESHIRE BORDERS

Capital Dairy Farm with Beautiful Elizabethan Residence.

Fine range of farmbuildings, cottages, etc.

ABOUT 240 ACRES

LONG STRETCH OF TROUT FISHING.

For Sale by OSBORN & MERCER.

FARM OF 600 ACRES

(mainly grass).

For Sale in HEREFORDSHIRE. Vacant possession.

Historical Old House

with 9 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms, etc.

Ample buildings. Several cottages.

Extensive orchards. Trout ponds. Nominal outgoings.

Full details from OSBORN & MERCER.

AYLESBURY AND BANBURY

(Between); 4 miles from Bicester Kennels, convenient for Main Line Station to London.

Sheltered situation in rural country.—For Sale—
AN UP-TO-DATE COUNTRY HOUSE.



Main electricity and water. Central heating.
Lounge hall, 3 reception, dozen bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

Hunter Stabling. Farmery. 3 Cottages.

Very Pleasant Gardens. Excellent Pasture.

Hard Tennis Court. Squash Court.

24 Acres

Sole Agents, OSBORN & MERCER. Inspected and highly recommended. (16,730.)

3, MOUNT STREET,
LONDON, W.1.

RALPH PAY & TAYLOR

Telephones:
Grosvenor 1032-33.

MID-DEVON, 600 FEET UP. BEAUTIFUL PANORAMIC VIEWS OF WIDE EXTENT



STABLING. GARAGE. 7 GOOD COTTAGES.
Main electricity. Central heating. Water by gravitation.

BEAUTIFULLY TIMBERED PLEASURE GROUNDS

Inexpensive to maintain. Delightful, well-placed woodlands and coppices.

2 EXCELLENT FARMS, ETC., PRODUCING A GROSS

INCOME OF APPROX. £300 PER ANNUM.

NOMINAL OUTGOINGS.

FREEHOLD FOR SALE. BY PRIVATE TREATY OR AUCTION LATER.

Full particulars and plan, apply Auctioneers: RALPH PAY & TAYLOR, 3, Mount Street, W.1.

THE EXCEPTIONALLY ATTRACTIVE
RESIDENTIAL, AGRICULTURAL AND SPORTING ESTATE
of about 324 ACRES in a ring fence,

known as

MEDLAND MANOR, CHERITON BISHOP

12 miles from Exeter.

DISTINCTIVE TUDOR STYLE RESIDENCE

on 2 floors, giving minimum of upkeep.

In perfect taste and beautifully equipped. Large sums of money recently expended. Gallered lounge, inner hall, 4 reception and billiards room, 7 principal bedrooms, (fitted lavatory basins), dressing room, 5 bathrooms and servants' accommodation in addition.



Telephone: 3204. **RIPPON, BOSWELL & CO., F.A.I.** Est. 1884.

LAND AGENTS, SURVEYORS AND AUCTIONEERS, 8, QUEEN STREET, EXETER.

ILLUSTRATED REGISTER OF PROPERTIES in the South and South-West Counties, Price 2/6.
Selected Lists free upon receipt of applicant's requirements.

IN A WOODLAND SETTING OF UNSURPASSED BEAUTY WITH A GLORIOUS VISTA OF THE SEA AND
SOUTH DEVON COAST (Exeter 9 and Torquay 15 miles)

The subject of a special article in "Country Life."

SUMPTUOUSLY APPOINTED COUNTRY RESIDENCE



LARGE LOUNGE WITH DANCE FLOOR.

3 RECEPTION.

7 PRINCIPAL AND 5 SERVANTS' BEDROOMS.

4 BATHROOMS.

NURSERY SUITE WITH BATHROOM.

Most up-to-date domestic quarters.

"Aga" cooker.

Main electric light and water; central heating.

STABLING 3. GARAGE 4.

COTTAGE.

Squash court, swimming pool, gardens and pine woods.

TO LET FURNISHED

THE OWNER BEING ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Full details of RIPPON, BOSWELL & CO., Exeter.

BRUTON, KNOWLES & CO.,

Estate Agents, Surveyors & Auctioneers,

HAVE

RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL
PROPERTIES

TO BE SOLD OR LET

IN

Gloucestershire and adjoining Counties.

ALBION CHAMBERS, GLOUCESTER

Telephone:
2267 (2 lines).

Telegrams:
Brutons, Gloucester.

SALISBURY & DISTRICT.—ESTATE AGENTS.
MYDDELTON & MAJOR, F.A.I., Salisbury.

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS

Telephone No.
Grosvenor 1553 (4 lines)

(ESTABLISHED 1778)

25, MOUNT STREET, GROSVENOR SQUARE, W.I.

And at
Hobart Place, Eaton Sq.,
12, Victoria Street,
Westminster, S.W.1.

CHIDDINGFOLD—GODALMING COUNTRY

In glorious surroundings, 420ft. above sea on sandy soil and secure from pollution.



Luxuriously planned and built in the most expensive manner a few years ago, this

HOUSE of definite character may be purchased.

9 bedrooms (all with h. and c. basins), 4 bath-rooms, large games room, 3 exceptionally fine reception rooms, maid's room, etc., etc.

CO.'S ELECTRICITY AND WATER.

1-mile drive with lodge; garage; beautiful old trees, woodlands and pastures; up to

45 ACRES, as required

Owner's Agents: GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS 25, Mount Street, W.I. (D.1058.)

READING — BASINGSTOKE — NEWBURY

About 9 miles from each; village, station and bus handy.

£2,600

reduced from £3,000
FOR QUICK SALE.

This exceedingly well-built and admirably planned

HOUSE

contains 5 good bedrooms and large roof space on same level for more if required, bathroom, 3 good reception rooms, excellent offices with "Aga" cooker, etc.



CO.'S ELECTRICITY, GOOD WATER AND DRAINAGE; 2 GARAGES

¾ ACRE of well-timbered and stocked gardens with croquet
Owner's Agents: GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.I. (C.1058.)

F. L. MERCER & CO.

SPECIALISTS IN THE DISPOSAL OF COUNTRY ESTATES AND HOUSES

SACKVILLE HOUSE, 40, PICCADILLY, W.I.

Telephone: REGENT 2481.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND BEDFORDSHIRE BORDERS

FOR SALE WITH ABOUT 6 ACRES



Pleasantly situated between Bedford and Kettering; convenient for golf and fishing and central for hunting with the Oakley.

An extremely well-built and compact MODERN HOUSE

with a bright and cheerful interior; on 2 floors only 3 reception, 6 bedrooms, Bathroom.

Main electricity, central heating, septic tank drainage, Garage, Tennis court.

CHARMING MATURED AND WELL-STOCKED GARDEN,

with large paddock and an orchard containing about 200 trees.

Forming an attractive small country home which can be maintained with the minimum of indoor and outdoor staff.

FREEHOLD ONLY £2,250

Agents: F. L. MERCER & CO., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.I. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.



A SYLVAN SETTING ON THE SURREY HILLS

Where one might be in the heart of Deconshire, yet is only 20 miles south of London; over 600ft. up with an extraordinarily attractive view of a lovely valley.



The situation is really superb and the well-appointed

MODERN HOUSE

(in perfect order) is connected with main electricity, gas and water, and contains: 2 reception rooms, a beautiful sun loggia, 5 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms;

2 GARAGES.

Tennis court.

Exquisitely pretty terraced gardens.

£3,400 with 2 ACRES.

£3,750 with 3¼ ACRES

Agents: F. L. MERCER & CO., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.I. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

SOMERSET GEM — SAFE AREA

Situate on hillside commanding glorious views over the Vale; buses, church, shops within 5 minutes' walk; Taunton and Yeovil short drive.

Picturesque Modernised XVth Century Cottage

with main electricity and water; lead light casement windows, beamed ceilings, etc.

Panelled hall, 3 reception, 4 bedrooms, bathroom (h. and c.)

GARAGE.

Stables. Studio.

Matured kitchen garden.

Prolific orchard, lawn, etc.

RATES £16 p.a.



FREEHOLD £2,000 with 2 ACRES

Agents: F. L. MERCER & CO., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.I. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

AN ARCHITECT DESIGNED HOUSE IN EXQUISITE GARDENS

ADJOINING GOLF COURSE IN WEST SURREY.

60 MINUTES FROM WATERLOO.



UNSPOILABLE PANORAMIC VIEWS.
300ft. up. Sand and gravel soil. Facing South.
EVERYTHING IS OF THE BEST
and the location is one greatly favoured and safer from air raids than many other districts. There is a 1-mile drive through a belt of picturesque woodlands. Lounge hall, 3 reception, 9 bed and dressing, 3 bathrooms.

Co.'s electricity, gas and water.

GARAGE FOR 2.

Chauffeur's rooms. Stabling accommodation. The GARDENS are probably the most beautiful for their size in the district. Fine rock garden, many specimen shrubs, oak and pine trees, kitchen garden with 3 greenhouses. The remainder is natural woodland.

**FREEHOLD 10 ACRES
FURTHER LAND AVAILABLE**



FOR SALE AT MUCH BELOW COST OR MIGHT BE LET UNFURNISHED

Agents: F. L. MERCER & CO., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.I. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

(For continuation of F. L. MERCER & Co.'s advertisements see page x.)

5, MOUNT STREET,
LONDON, W.1.

CURTIS & HENSON

Telephones:
Grosvenor 3131 (3 lines.)
ESTABLISHED 1875.

WEST SUSSEX — BETWEEN MIDHURST AND PETERSFIELD

An exceptional opportunity of
securing a Property in the
most favoured part of Sussex.

10 BEDROOMS.
2 BATHROOMS.
4 RECEPTION ROOMS.

MODERN DOMESTIC OFFICES
with servants' hall.

Co.'s Electric Light and Water.

Modern Drainage.

Central Heating.



GARAGE FOR 3 CARS,
with Flat over.
STABLING FOR 3 HORSES.
EXCELLENT COTTAGE.
Attractive yet inexpensive
Gardens.

Fine old trees and tennis lawn. Orchard
and good Paddocks.

In all

About 10 Acres

FOR SALE FREEHOLD
at a recently reduced price.
Or the House would be Let
Unfurnished

CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street
W.1. (16,489.)

DEVONSHIRE (7 miles from Exeter).—Attractive
MODERN HOUSE, 450ft. up, amidst sloping wood-
lands. 4 reception rooms, servants' sitting room,
13 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Electric light. Garage
and stabling. 2 Cottages. Charming Grounds, with
tennis court and swimming pool. Rough shooting
over 600 acres. TO LET FURNISHED on reasonable
terms.

Apply CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1.
(15,431A.)

BERKSHIRE—A QUEEN ANNE HOUSE in a small
park. Gallered hall, 3 reception rooms, 15 bed and
dressing rooms (all fitted lavatory basins, h. & c.), 5
bathrooms, central domestic offices; central heating
throughout; all services. Garages for 5 cars (with
men's rooms and bathroom over), cottage, stabling.
Beautiful grounds with hard tennis court and well-
timbered paddocks; in all about 100 ACRES (would
be divided). FOR SALE FREEHOLD, OR TO
LET FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED.
Agents, CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1.
(8,876.)

WALES (in North-West Carmarthenshire, 5 miles
from Llandovery).—Large HOUSE of Georgian design,
suitable for a school. Entrance hall, 3 reception rooms,
16 bed and dressing rooms, 4 bathrooms. Electricity
and central heating. Garage for 10 cars; stabling for 6.
Gardener's cottage and 2 lodges. Hard tennis court.
Shooting, Fishing and Golf. TO LET FURNISHED
(or partly furnished) at a reasonable rental, or
FOR SALE with about 2,000 acres.
Apply CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1.
(15,476A.)

Telephone:
Grosvenor 2252
(6 lines)

CONSTABLE & MAUDE

2, MOUNT STREET, LONDON, W.1

GLOUCESTERSHIRE FARM OF 200 ACRES

in a ring fence

STONE-BUILT FARMHOUSE

with 5-8 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 sitting rooms.

Modern Farm Buildings.

LET ON AN ANNUAL TENANCY.

TO BE SOLD

Agents: CONSTABLE & MAUDE, 2, Mount Street, W.1.

WESTERN MIDLANDS

Within easy reach of important centres.

A BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED
GEORGIAN RESIDENCE

in faultless order. Halls, saloon and 5 reception rooms,
45-50 bedrooms, ample bathrooms, separate and
excellent offices. Modern conveniences. Garage and
stabling. Ornamental and Kitchen Gardens.

TO BE LET FURNISHED

All further details from CONSTABLE & MAUDE, 2,
Mount Street, W.1.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE A GENUINE QUEEN ANNE HOUSE

3 reception rooms, 10 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

Central heating.

Company's water and electric light.

2 cottages. Stabling. Garages.

ABOUT 9 ACRES. FOR SALE
income £46 p.a. Price £3,750.

CONSTABLE & MAUDE, 2, Mount Street, W.1.

STEWARTRY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT CALLY ESTATE

For sale by private treaty the following desirable sheep
farms, with possession at Martinmas, 1940:—

GLENGAP, in the parish of Tynholm, 2,017 acres,
carrying a Blackface stock of 35 score ewes and 9½ score
hogs. Good grouse shooting and loch and burn fishing.

GROBDAL, in the parish of Girthon, 1,633 acres,
carrying a Blackface stock of 33 score ewes and 9 score
hogs. Grouse shooting and burn fishing.

Both farms are about 12 miles from the market town
of Castle-Douglas, and the bound sheep stocks have a
good reputation in the district.

Further particulars from MRS. MURRAY-USHER, Cally
Estate Office, Gatehouse-of-Fleet, Scotland.

SHOOTINGS, FISHINGS, &c.

WANTED.—SHOOTING FOR TWO OFFICERS ON
LEAVE for week September 10th. Either join party
or rough shooting alone; careful experienced shots. Easy
reach of Dorking. Apply: Mrs. MAYER, Bellasis House,
Near Dorking.

ROOMS

MID-SUSSEX.—COUNTRY HOUSE. Double bed
and sitting room free for duration; board optional.—
ARNOLD, Brighton, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

MID-SOMERSET (Taunton 20 miles)

FOR SALE (or would be let partly furnished) in a
quiet Village, a charmingly situated COUNTRY
RESIDENCE containing 6 reception rooms, 20 bed and
dressing rooms, 4 bathrooms, usual domestic offices, entrance
lodge, gardener's cottage, stabling, garage; main electricity
and water. Delightful grounds and gardens 9 acres in
extent.—Particulars from C. R. MORRIS, SONS & PEARD,
North Curry, Taunton.

FRUIT FARMS, Etc.

GORDON APPLE TREES.—A valuable planta-
tion of choice varieties, affording a healthy, profitable
and interesting occupation amidst glorious surroundings.—
Sussex Border. Cost over £2,000. Accept first
reasonable offer.—"A.630," c/o COUNTRY LIFE OFFICES,
Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2.

GLUCESTERSHIRE.
HOLLOWAY, PRICE & CO.,
ESTABLISHED 1809.) MARKET HARBOUROUGH.
LAND AND HOUSE AGENTS

AMPSHIRE & SOUTHERN COUNTIES
Above Bar, Southampton. WALLER & KING, F.A.I.
Business Established over 100 years.

SURREY (30 miles from London).—On private estate,
standing high, enjoying maximum sunshine. A
likeable MODERN "GEORGIAN" HOUSE. Station
and shopping centre ¼ mile. First-class golf links 1 mile.
Oak-panelled lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, all with
oak floors. 5 principal bedrooms, dressing room (fitted
basins), 2 bathrooms. On secondary staircase: 4 bed-
rooms, with bathroom, suitable for use of married couple,
excellent offices, maids' sitting room. Co.'s electric light
and power, gas, water, main drainage and central heating
throughout. Double Garage (h. and c. basin). Fully
stocked flower and vegetable garden, 1½ Acres. The
house and garden are specially planned for economy
in working and both are in first-class order. Price includes
all tenants' fixtures.—"A.638," c/o COUNTRY LIFE
Offices, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London,
W.C.2.

CRAWLEY (Sussex).—Well-built RESIDENCE, good
position. 8 bedrooms, 3 reception. Garage and 3-acre
attractive garden. Ideal Guest House, Convalescent Home
or small School. Freehold, £1,750.—Apply, W.M. WOOD,
SON, & GARDNER, Crawley.

FARM WANTED

WANTED to rent or lease, FARM 50 to 150 ACRES.
Counties preferred: Shropshire, Hereford, Devon,
Dorset, Berkshire. Reasonable ingoing — "A.641," c/o
COUNTRY LIFE OFFICES, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden,
W.C.2.

BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE (Safety area).—
Attractively situated freehold residence, sunny position;
4 reception, 8 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms; electric light; central
heating; 1½ acres. Two-car garage. Suitable private
occupation, guest house, school or home. Vacant. Low
price quick sale.—HAMPSON BROS., House Agents, Buxton.

SHROPSHIRE (4 miles from good market town).—
FOR SALE, a charmingly situated RESIDENCE.
Large hall, 3 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms, bath and lava-
tories, good domestic offices. Electric light. Garage and
stabling. Lodge entrance. Charming gardens. Ample water.
Small paddock (more land if required).—PERRY & PHILLIPS,
LTD., Agents, Bridgnorth.

FURNISHED HOUSES

WELL-APPOINTED COUNTRY RESI-
DENCE. Furnished, within easy distance of Bury,
Manchester and Bolton, with outbuildings and greenhouses.
Garage (4 cars). Gardens, tennis lawn and grounds. The
accommodation consists of entrance hall and cloakroom,
5 entertaining rooms (full sized billiard table), 5 bedrooms,
2 bathrooms and usual offices. Central heating. Occupation
as officers' mess or other suitable official or community private
residential purpose would be considered. For further parti-
culars, apply BUTCHER & BARLOW, Solicitors, 4, Bank Street,
Bury. (Tel.: 63 and 64.)

VERY SECLUDED COUNTRY RETREAT.
IN NORTH DEVON.—A FURNISHED HOUSE, with
every modern convenience, to Let at £5 5s. 0d. per week—
period not less than six months.—Full particulars of:
COCKRAM, DOBBS & STAGG, Auctioneers, Southmolton.

To Landowners or their Agents

HOME GROWN TIMBER SUPPLIES

MESSRS. JACKSON STOPS & STAFF
Timber Surveyors

URGENTLY REQUIRE for National Purposes

Large quantities of LARCH, SCOTCH, SPRUCE, SILVER and OTHER
FIR, PITWOOD, OAK, ASH, BEECH, LIME, POPLAR, ELM.

IMMEDIATE INSPECTION.

Full particulars to: **TIMBER DEPARTMENT, 20, BRIDGE STREET, NORTHAMPTON** (Tel. 2615);
Or their other Offices at Stops House, Curzon Street, Mayfair, London, W.1 (Tel. Grosvenor 1811); Survey House, 15, Bond
Street, Leeds (Tel. 31269); Castle Street, Cirencester (Tel. 334/5); 29, Princes Street, Yeovil (Tel. 1066).

14, MOUNT STREET,
GROSVENOR SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

WILSON & CO.

Telephone:
Grosvenor 1441 (three lines.)

CHARTERED SURVEYORS, LAND AGENTS AND AUCTIONEERS

ONE HOUR WEST OF LONDON

CHARMING TUDOR HOUSE WITH PERIOD FEATURES



6/7 bedrooms
with wash basins,
2 bathrooms,
large hall,
3 reception.

Very fine
Staircase.

Massive oak
beams.

Garage and
Chauffeur's
Rooms.

LOVELY
GARDENS.

3 ACRES

FOR IMMEDIATE SALE. BARGAIN PRICE.

Agents: WILSON & Co., 14, Mount Street, W.1.

PERIOD HOUSE ON SURREY BORDER

RICH IN OLD OAK AND FINE PANNELLING

DELIGHTFUL
POSITION with
long drive.

10 bedrooms,
3 bathrooms,
4 reception
rooms.

3 Cottages

Stabling.

Garages.

PERFECT

GARDENS.

Swimming pool.
Hard tennis court



LOW PRICE ACCEPTED WITH 40 ACRES

Agents: WILSON & Co., 14, Mount Street, W.1.

**AN EARLY QUEEN ANNE HOUSE
IN BUCKS**

occupying a magnificent position 600ft. above sea level.

AMIDST GLORIOUS ROLLING COUNTRY AND FINE BEECH
WOODS.

8 principal bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, billiard room; period panelling in
3 reception rooms; main electric light and water; central heating.

STABLING.

COTTAGES.

FARMERY AND OUTBUILDINGS.

DELIGHTFUL OLD GARDENS

with many fine specimen trees.

ABOUT 50 ACRES. FURTHER LAND AVAILABLE

Agents: WILSON & Co., 14, Mount Street, W.1.

**EARLY GEORGIAN HOUSE IN
SOMERSET**

PERFECTLY POSITIONED AND ONLY 2 1/2 HOURS FROM LONDON
BY EXPRESS TRAINS.

FIRST-RATE SPORTING AND RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT.

Fishing. Shooting. Hunting.

THE LOVELY PERIOD HOUSE

set within perfect old gardens amidst well-wooded surroundings; 14 bedrooms,
4 bathrooms, charming suite of reception rooms; beautifully appointed and
up to date in every respect.

AMPLE STABLING AND GARAGES, NUMEROUS COTTAGES,
HOME FARM, ETC.

FOR SALE WITH 1,000 ACRES

Agents: WILSON & Co., 14, Mount Street, W.1.

F. L. MERCER & CO.

SPECIALISTS IN THE DISPOSAL OF COUNTRY ESTATES AND HOUSES

SACKVILLE HOUSE, 40, PICCADILLY, W.1.

Telephone: REGENT 2481.

IDEAL HOME FOR LONDON BUSINESS MAN

IN ONE OF THE FINEST POSITIONS IN PURLEY, SURREY

500ft. up, facing South. Perfect quietness and seclusion amidst country surroundings. Electric trains to City and West End in 25 minutes. Excellent shopping,
scholastic and golfing facilities.

**AN INTERESTING REPLICA OF
A TUDOR HOUSE**

With a wealth of oak panelling, oak beams and floors.
3 reception, billiards room, 8 bed and dressing rooms.

All main services connected. Radiators.

DETACHED DOUBLE GARAGE.

LOVELY GARDENS

which form a perfect setting.

3 1/4 ACRES FREEHOLD

For Sale at Less than Half Cost.

This attractive residential property has been the subject
of a special illustrated article in "Country Life." It is
one of the "Show Places" of the district.



Agents: F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

CLOSE TO SURREY COMMON

300FT. UP ON SANDY LOAM SOIL.

OF IRRESISTIBLE APPEAL TO GARDEN LOVERS

**SINGULARLY
CHARMING HOUSE**

35 minutes London via Southern Electric
Beautiful situation.

'Bus route. Perfectly Peaceful.

Between London and Brighton, and
within easy reach of Walton Heath and
other Golf Courses.

OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER
AND APPROACHED BY A DRIVE.

Spacious and lofty rooms enjoying the
maximum of sun and air.



3 EXCELLENT RECEPTION ROOMS
9 BED AND DRESSING ROOMS.
2 BATHROOMS.
Central Heating.

All main services connected.

2 GARAGES. Greenhouses.

Tennis court over which keen tennis players
enthusiasts.

THE GARDENS

although a most beautiful feature of the
property, can be maintained by one
gardener.

2 ACRES

FREEHOLD £4,500

Agents: F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

(For continuation of F. L. MERCER & Co.'s advertisements see page viii.)

Telegrams:
"Wood, Agents, Wesco,
London."

JOHN D. WOOD & CO.

23, BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

Telephone No.:
Mayfair 6341 (10 lines).

WITHIN EASY REACH OF GUILDFORD AND GODALMING

**BEAUTIFUL
ELIZABETHAN HOUSE**
WITH ORIGINAL OPEN FIREPLACES
AND BEAUTIFUL OAK TIMBERS.

HALL AND 3 RECEPTION ROOMS,
9 BEDROOMS WITH BASINS (h. & c.),
2 BATHROOMS.

Main electric light and water.
Central heating.

GARAGE FOR 4.



TITHE BARN CONVERTED INTO
COTTAGE.

LOVELY OLD GARDEN
WITH BEAUTIFUL TREES, WOOD-
LAND, ORCHARD AND PASTURE.

IN ALL ABOUT
20 ACRES

For Sale at a Reasonable
Price.

Further particulars from the Agents, JOHN D. WOOD & Co., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1. (21,057.)

TO BE SOLD.

FAVOURITE PART OF BERKSHIRE

2½ MILES FROM STATION, ABOUT 30 MINUTES FROM LONDON.

IN A BEAUTIFUL PARK OF
57 ACRES

18 BEDROOMS, 3 BATHROOMS,
BILLIARD ROOM, 4 RECEPTION
ROOMS.

Central heating. Electric light.



2 LODGES AND 2 COTTAGES.

STABLING. GARAGES.
SQUASH RACQUET COURT.

CONVENIENT FOR
SEVERAL
NOTED GOLF COURSES

Inspected and strongly recommended by JOHN D. WOOD & Co., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1. (10,026.)

GOOD FARMS ARE MAKING HIGH PRICES

JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, BERKELEY SQUARE, W.1,

HAVE MANY KEEN BUYERS WANTING

**MIXED AND DAIRY FARMS (LARGE OR SMALL)
FOR INVESTMENT OR OCCUPATION**

AND WILL BE GLAD TO HEAR FROM OWNERS (OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES)

HAVING REALLY FIRST-CLASS FARMS TO SELL

Tel.:
OXFORD
4637/8.

JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK OXFORD & CHIPPING NORTON

ALSO AT LONDON, RUGBY & BIRMINGHAM

Tel.:
CHIPPING
NORTON
39.

ELIZABETHAN GEM IN UNSPOILT BUCKS



2½ miles from Winslow and 7 miles from Bletchley.

2 RECEPTION ROOMS, 3 BEDROOMS,
BATHROOM (h. and c.).

Electric light and power. Central Heating.

OUTBUILDINGS. STABLING. GARAGE.

4 ACRES

**JUST AVAILABLE FOR SALE
FREEHOLD**

Sole Agents: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, Oxford.

THE OLD RECTORY, NOKE

In an unspoilt Village 6 miles from Oxford.

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COUNTRY LIFE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31st, 1940

Vol. LXXXVIII. No. 2276



Bassano

38, Dover St., W.1.

LADY MARY CLEMENTINE PRATT

The engagement of Lady Mary Clementine Pratt, only daughter of Major the Earl of Brecknock and the Countess of Brecknock and granddaughter of the Marquess and Marchioness Camden, to Flight-Lieutenant the Hon. H. Oswald Berry, fifth son of Lord Kemsley, has just been announced

COUNTRY LIFE

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"Country Life" Crossword No. 553 p. xx.

POSTAL CHARGES.—The Editor reminds correspondents and contributors that any communication requiring a reply must be accompanied by the requisite stamps. Notice is given that MSS. submitted will not be returned unless this condition is complied with.

POSTAGES ON THIS ISSUE: INLAND 2d., CANADA 1½d., ABROAD 2d.

THE SQUIRE

IN that mine of old wisdom and wit, "The Holy State," by Thomas Fuller, whom Lamb esteemed the most human of seventeenth-century authors, occur portraits of ideal types in the nation of his time. Under such titles as "The Good Prince," "The Good Soldier," "The Good Yeoman," he summarises in his quaint way (that abused epithet is here sanctioned by a century and a half of use) the qualities that, in their several stations, our ancestors at any rate aspired to if they did not always reach. "More disputes are compounded in his porch than he sends to Westminster Hall" is a characteristic attribute of "the good Justice of the Peace" that comes to mind. If, in our own times, the character of the Good Squire were to be similarly depicted, many if not all qualities of the ideal type could be found in the late Christopher Turnor of Stoke Rochford. To readers of COUNTRY LIFE he is well known for his contributions on agriculture, particularly for the series of articles in 1932, which he edited, "Towards an Agricultural Policy," and "Farming Restored" in 1938. In the former he and a distinguished team of practical specialists set themselves to expedite reforms in the organisation and practice of farming with the object of raising the output of the soil by £100,000,000 annually and the finding of employment for at least 200,000 more men. Many measures then advocated vainly have since been adopted—especially since the war has eliminated several sources of cheap imports besides making a great increase of production a vital necessity: the regulation of imports by agreement, closing of redundant markets, the higher agricultural wage, and the belated measures for increasing soil fertility, besides the pre-war organisation of the marketing boards. But had the practical methods advocated been adopted seven years ago, the nation would not have been faced with the need for ploughing-up a million acres against time, for they would have already been under full cultivation.

But it is not as a theorist, however sound, that Christopher Turnor deserves to rank as an ideal modern type of country squire. He largely evolved and practised a new conception of the large landowner's functions in a democratic community, part business-man, part farmer, part social idealist. As business-man the squire is required to make the capital represented by his property as productive as possible: the park and kitchen garden were made to contribute their quota, as golf course and to supply a vegetable shop and restaurant established at the park gates on the Great North Road. As farmer he introduced Danish methods, and "extensive" principles on his poorer acres, many of which were left in hand by the agricultural depression. This possibly coloured his views of the landlord-tenant system, which he believed should be modified into an arrangement of small owner-occupied holdings grouped round a large estate adequately equipped with capital and plant and containing a central factory farm to process the products of the small holdings and the estate equally, these two sections of the organisation contributing mutually to each other's needs in various ways. There are signs that some such system will gradually come into being after the war, rather than whole-hog nationalisation, which he regarded as no less unsound than some other Socialist ideals. Many of these, while he sympathised with the causes underlying them, he would reasonably counter by inviting their

protagonists to stay at Stoke Rochford to gain first-hand acquaintance with the working structure of country life. Summer schools of teachers and W.E.A. students, East End children, seamen, church conferences were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Turnor in the great Lincolnshire mansion. In that sane and beautiful setting conversation would range from the subjects under discussion to analogies in other parts of the world, to other, gentler, arts and crafts, and, at least in the thoughts of many of those present, to a fresh conception of the term "country gentleman" and all that implies.

ARMY FOOD WASTE

EVIDENTLY the return of the B.E.F. from France, and the presence of a million or so troops in this country, has enormously increased the wastage of foods in camps. The Public Relations Officer of the Southern Command, in a communication to *The Times*, has explained that a concern called National By-products collects camp waste in much of the south of England, paying at least 25s. per hundred men for swill, including scrub bread, and that, elsewhere in the Command, units make local contacts. But it is no answer to the civilians' complaint of excessive waste that the Army is well paid for it. How excessive it is was pointed out here a month ago, and now correspondents of *The Times* speak of finding 100 large loaves of bread in one day, an unopened box of kippers, churns full of porridge, a hundredweight of good potatoes, sausages, cheese, beans and butter, swill for which £4 a ton is being charged to pig farmers who used to get ordinary swill for 4s. a ton. It is distressing to learn that the grossest cases of waste of this kind have been traced to a Canadian camp, but few are exempt. Some waste there must be, but, unless the internal economy of units is speedily tightened up, the nation is justified in demanding that strong disciplinary measures be applied to the personnel responsible for such carelessness or mismanagement at a time when civilians are going short and famine threatens large areas of Europe.

SELF-SUPPORTING IN SUGAR

BEFORE the war many people criticised the assistance given to the home sugar-beet industry. When sugar could be bought in unlimited quantities and very cheaply from overseas, it was often said to be a waste of money to foster an "uneconomic industry." At the meeting of the British Sugar Corporation last week the Chairman said that home-produced sugar in 1939 was more than sufficient to meet the present ration for the civil population in this country for a year. Last year's yield was particularly good, averaging 10.14 tons per acre against 6.64 tons in 1938 (an abnormally bad year) and 8.24 tons in 1937. Apart from sugar, 300,000 tons of dried and molassed sugar-beet pulp, equivalent in value to oats, were produced at a time when cattle feed was very short. Another creditable point is that, instead of being, as formerly, solely dependent on the import of sugar-beet seed from the Continent, to-day arrangements have been made for the production, in a normal season, of all our seed requirements in this country. Further, as a measure of prudence, a reserve of seed has been created in America to insure against a partial failure of the home crop.

"OFFICIALESE"

MR. CHURCHILL is a great stylist, and few could beat him at his own game, even though there have been poets galore in the Civil Service. He has now told his—or is it the Treasury's?—staff of several thousands that "officialese jargon" should be dropped in favour of the "short expressive phrase." We take it that Mr. Churchill is chiefly, if not entirely, concerned with "papers" intended to inform the public, and not those which pass between Civil servants themselves. The mandarins proper are often known to vary the usual succinct "Agreed" or "Please see me" with even shorter and more expressive adjurations. As for official communications between departments, there would surely be something lost if, in the concluding correspondence between the Admiralty and the Army Council on the employment of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides for messenger service, "Their Lordships" had not been "unable to conceal their preference for the latter." The usual official phraseology in corresponding with the public must revolt the soul of any decent man who has been brought up on, shall we say, Edgar Wallace or William Shakespeare. But there is a point to be remembered. "Statements of policy" can only be drawn up on the strict basis of the Acts of Parliament the officials administer. The words are chosen for them already by Parliamentary draughtsmen, and the law officers of the Crown. They vary such wording at their peril. After the Commons have debated for half a week the insertion of "may" for "shall" in a dubious clause, they cannot rush in with a snappy little rendering of their own.

A GENEROUS CONTEST

A FINE rivalry has been developed in the matter of gifts for aircraft, from Mr. J. W. McConnell's princely million dollars from Canada, to individual pence, and already at the beginning of last week Lord Beaverbrook announced that over £3,000,000 had been received. There will be Spitfires bearing the names of colonies



HARVEST IN HAMPSHIRE

A party scene near Isington Mill on the upper waters of the Wey, where large areas of cereal crops have been grown and stacked. Adjoining fields of wheat were dry enough to be threshed as soon as cut

such as Ceylon and Nyasaland, of counties such as Cambridgeshire, of villages such as Michaelston-le-Pit in memory of an airman son, of ladies called Dorothy, and so on. There is an opportunity for all manner of institutions to vie with one another, and in a letter which we publish this week in Correspondence Sir Pelham Warner suggests one form that the competition might take. He wants all those who have in the past watched the Middlesex eleven at Lord's and look forward to doing so again in a happier future, to contribute a shilling apiece (or more, of course, if possible) to pay for a fighter. Further, he wants that fighter, when it is bought, to bear the badge of the three scimitars which the men of Middlesex wear proudly on their caps. Here is the making of a very pretty quarrel in a good cause, for surely the white horse of Kent, the rival roses of Yorkshire and Lancashire, and all the other county badges will not allow the three scimitars to remain in solitary glory.

SYMPHONY

This symphony of stillness is composed
Of sound that makes the silence yet more still:
The sky-bound tremor of a lark's noon song,
The wind, scarce stirring bracken on the hill,
The heat-drooped burring of a single bee
And ether-drilling insects spin the air
Around them with innumerable sounds,
The zooming dragon-fly that flashes fair
Across the lead-hot pond where midges swarm
With cacophonous concert of their own.
The grasshopper's dry rattle, paper-parched,
And bird that cracks a snail on burning stone,
The brittle, sun-blackened gorse-pod's sudden snap
And startled pigeon's clatter on a bough—
All these compose this mid-day symphony
Conducting silence as I listen now.

PHOEBE HESKETH.

PUBLIC SCHOOLBOYS AT WORK

IN his Notes this week Major Jarvis pays a little compliment to that public-school system which is so often nowadays the target of abuse. This is *à propos* of the work that public schoolboys are doing in the harvest during their holidays. Given one prefect in command, he says, a party of boys can be trusted to look after themselves, their food and the camp, and do their work vigorously and efficiently. This is particularly interesting, because in a book of criticism on the public schools which was reviewed in last week's COUNTRY LIFE the author, Mr. T. C. Worsley, discussed very fully the question how far the public schools really give that training in "leadership" which has been traditionally regarded as one of their merits. Here, at any rate, is one small example showing that they do and that the virtues of discipline and devotion to duty, at which some people are a little apt to sneer, can have in such times as these extremely practical advantages.

"FRANCE"

THE new daily newspaper *France* began publication on Monday: four well printed pages of news, with illustrations, a feuilleton, and a crossword. It is edited by a distinguished staff of French journalists, formerly belonging to different political groups, who have submerged their personal views to work on this non-political journal for the liberation of their country. It costs 6d. a week and should be ordered through the usual newsagencies, who obtain it from Practical Press, Limited, 1, Dorset Buildings, Fleet Street. There are very many French—and Belgian—refugees scattered about the countryside to whom the present of a subscription to *France* would be a true charity.

A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES

Harvest Weather—Schoolboy Lumberjacks—The Rear Rank—Charcoal Burning

By MAJOR C. S. JARVIS.

ONE great advantage of an early harvest such as we have experienced this year is that the birds have had very little time at their disposal to do extensive damage. The long succession of hot days of unbroken sunshine and drying winds has resulted in the various stages of the harvest following each other so rapidly that the yellowing of the corn, its ripening, cutting and carrying have all happened within a fortnight or less without any pauses for rainy days.

It takes the sparrow world a little time to discover the various fields of wheat and to assemble their forces, and apparently their information bureaux in the towns have not come up to scratch this year, for some fields in this area were cut and standing in stooks before the sparrows arrived in their hundreds. The sparrow is such a thoroughgoing rascal, however, that one feels he will have his revenge and get square with the farmer by some other method.

* * *

IT would appear that the scheme for employing schoolboys on the harvest during their holidays is not meeting with the success it deserves, as many farmers are unwilling to employ unskilled labour at sixpence per hour, and there are a considerable number of useful boys kicking their heels and unable to find work. I have had the pleasure of employing on forestry work two small gangs from Bryanston and King's School, Bruton, and my only complaint against them is that there were not enough of them and they did not stay long enough, as they were booked up to go harvesting on Dorset farms. The farmers who obtain the services of these particular boys may count themselves lucky, as for sheer brawn and heftiness they were the equal of any farm labourer in the land, and the question of unskilled labour hardly arose, as, with their quick intelligence, they picked up the work in the shortest possible time.

The sense of duty, discipline and devotion to public service is possibly more highly developed in the schoolboy from the right sort of school at the age of sixteen or seventeen than it is at any other time of his life. This, to a large extent, is due to the trust placed in them as seniors and being made responsible for general discipline among the junior members of the school. Sometimes I have thought this arrangement had the effect of making them a trifle more serious and bowed down with responsibility than was normal in a young, growing lad, but the system is proving its worth now, when six or seven boys under a prefect can be trusted to run their own camp, manage their commissariat, and put in six hours' extremely efficient labour in the day.

* * *

THE first real parade of our Home Guard company and its inspection by higher authority necessitated some of that shuffling and sizing of ranks that always ensues when one is endeavouring to make as presentable a show as possible on a great occasion. In the Home Guard this is rather more difficult than in a Regular battalion, owing to the fact that, though stock sizes of uniforms may fit the young men of from twenty to thirty-five very satisfactorily, this is not always the case with men between forty and fifty-five, whose waist measurements do not always coincide with the official length of leg accompanying that total of inches.

In the old days, in the Regular Army, a "strong as possible" parade for an inspection meant that the company sergeant-major was allowed a generous hand in weeding out the least presentable men and putting them on cook-house and mess orderly fatigue. Then followed a further sorting out by means of which all the smartest and most upstanding of the troops were in the front rank, on the assumption that the inspecting officer would not be so pernickety by the time he reached the rear rank, or might possibly neglect to inspect it altogether.

There is an old story of a battery commander of artillery who was famous for his disconcerting behaviour with generals, as there was something about a "brass hat" which aroused his antagonism. He was not a particularly smart officer, and his command in consequence could not be regarded as the pick of the Army exactly. One day his battery was inspected by an explosive general of the old school who, having walked down the front rank, turned to the battery commander and said furiously:

"Never in all my life have I seen such a disgraceful turn-out. The dirtiest lot of scallywags in the British Army!"

"You haven't seen the rear rank yet, sir," said the major.

* * *

I SHOULD be very grateful if some knowledgeable reader of COUNTRY LIFE would give me and others interested some practical information about charcoal burning. Owing to the extensive felling of trees in woodlands all over the country there is a vast amount of waste timber—tops and side branches—that is of little value as firewood owing to the expense of cutting up and haulage. There is, I believe, a certain demand for charcoal, but, how big is it, and can larch and fir be used?

The next point that arises is whether the modern iron retorts should be used, or the old system of the charcoal pit. There will be a large amount of schoolboy labour available again during the winter holidays. Under expert guidance these boys might be profitably employed collecting and making charcoal.

FORESTRY BY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOYS

A VISIT TO A CAMP IN CENTRAL WALES. BY FRANCES PITT



PART OF A CAMOUFLAGED CAMP IN ITS MOUNTAINOUS SETTING

IN central Wales, where a lovely river collects its waters from the surrounding hills, where oak woods clothe the mountainsides and buzzards circle overhead, over fifty boys from Swansea Grammar School are combining the delights of a holiday amid wildest surroundings with a contribution to the nation's war effort. They are working in the woods at timber felling, sawing trees into suitable lengths for pit-props, and cutting stakes for the support of the barbed wire entanglements used for defence purposes. All this is under the Forestry Commission, which has obtained the standing timber from the landowner, Lord Cawdor.

But to drop from the general to the particular, it was a pleasant but somewhat dull grey morning when I drove along a way that wound between high hedges and dwindled steadily from a tarred road to a narrow and yet narrower lane, up and up a lovely valley. The farther we went the more the hills seemed to close in upon us, though they were green and pleasant mountains save where a dark crag frowned precipitously. It was a remote, wild place, a haunt of the last of the British kites, and seemed far removed from all thought and hint of war. Yet hint of war there was, for as we emerged into a more open part of the valley, and came upon a collection of tents dotted about two meadows, it was to see that many of them were camouflaged with green branches.

This was the camp where the masters and boys were accommo-

dated, though we did not stay now to inspect it, but went on up a track climbing the steep hillside to where the lads were at work. They were busy where an oak wood clothed the slope. The trees were, as oaks go, but small ones; however, they were the right size for pit-props, and we watched the boys using cross-cut saws to divide them into the proper lengths.

Standing above the eager young people—boys, it should be noted, mostly from town and urban homes—I looked down upon their busyness, upon the lovely valley laid out in a patchwork pattern of green turf and yellow-green ripening grain (the crops ripen late in these mountain valleys) and at the rolling hills, and thought how typical the scene was of Britain's determination to turn everything to war account. The boys were certainly spending their holidays worthily.

I saw larch trees felled—it is a thrill to wait with finger on camera-release and snap as the long pole topples earthwards—logs being dragged down the hill to a loading place, cut pit-props being loaded on to tractors, and, later in the day, away down the valley, the logs being reloaded on to lorries in readiness for their departure to the pits. But this is getting on too fast: twelve o'clock came, the dinner hour, and there was a dropping of tools and a departure down the steep trail towards the camp. The boys do a four-hour shift in the morning, then have dinner, and afterwards do another four-hour shift in the afternoon.



THE FORESTERS—OVER FIFTY BOYS FROM SWANSEA GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND THEIR MASTERS



FELLING LARCH



SAWING LENGTHS FOR PIT-PROPS

A word here about the boys and their school. It dates from 1682, having been founded in that year by Bishop Gore, whose original deeds are preserved in the Borough Estate Office. Since then the story of Swansea Grammar School has been one of steady progress, it now serving its town of 170,000 inhabitants as well as it did the 1,500 for which it was instituted, and proving itself a centre of education in the truest sense, as its holiday scheme now shows.

To cook for and feed over sixty persons, with only primitive appliances in a disused cottage, is no small achievement, yet I saw a stream of "orderlies" carrying plateful after plateful of steaming hot, appetising meat and vegetables from the cottage to the dinner tent, and I watched the hungry lads in hearty attack upon the fare. An ex-ship's cook can do anything, but nevertheless I had a heart-felt admiration for him.

I now took the opportunity to look around the actual camp, the rows of tents pitched under the shelter of tall hedges, from which could be obtained lovely views up the dale and down it, likewise of rolling hills and mountain crags. I also took the chance to get a snapshot of the personnel, including the Headmaster, Mr. J. Grey Morgans and his assistant masters, who had been so kind in giving me every possible assistance. As a photographer my speciality is birds and small mammals. In the posing of what I hope they will forgive me for terming "larger mammals" I am inexperienced, and the consequence was that I felt far more nervous anxiety, as

my obliging and numerous quarry lined up, than I have ever done when crouching in a hiding-tent watching a bird go about her home affairs. But I pressed the button and hoped for the best. After which the boys returned to work and I to the business of getting action pictures. Hitherto the day had been dull, but

that perverse demon who watches over the affairs of those who use cameras brought out a pretty light on hill and vale so soon as I had finished. It made very lovely a hay-carting scene in the valley, and it added charm to an old whitewashed farmhouse with walls of immense thickness, which we visited to inspect its great open fireplace with its old-fashioned bread oven in the wall at the side.

But time was passing, and I had to turn from this fine old house, from the camp in its beautiful setting, and take the narrow way that led back down the valley to the high road and to a long run home through central Wales. Up and up we climbed over the pass known as the Sugar-loaf, and I looked back on a vista of far-flung hills and valleys to think that the lads of Swansea Grammar School are young men to be envied, for they are combining a

delightful holiday with useful service to the country, and what more could anyone wish for?

In conclusion, I must acknowledge the kindness of the Forestry Commission officials in making my visit possible, and particularly the help given by their representative on the spot, Mr. E. H. Harris, who did everything he could to assist.



PIT PROPS BEING LOADED ON TO A LORRY DOWN THE VALLEY



"CERTAINLY FILLING THEIR HOLIDAYS WORTHILY"



BELOW THE WOOD: LOADING ON TO TRACTORS

QUADRUPLETS IN THE MOUSERY

BY experience I have learnt that with animals the saying that "the watched pot never boils" is true. Nevertheless, I have not yet reached those sane years of middle age when in actual practice I accept the old saw as a static, sober truth. I still hope on. I never expected my harvest mice to breed, for one very sound reason: I believed the entire community to be male. The first six came from Essex; I examined each with care, receiving only a few gentle bites from the patients, and marked each down as male.

I placed the six in a large house where they might have a men's club all to themselves. Their house was glass-fronted, with a bottom of zinc, because the method of growing plants in these houses has had an unfortunate effect on occasion by causing rot in the floor boards. I planted rushes, the common reed, ferns and willow-herb, praying my usual prayer that club members would not use their teeth on the furniture. Of course they did, and that is half the fun and half the battle, but the reeds were left standing long enough for *Micromys minutus* to spend many weeks swinging through the stems, up the reed poles and across the ropes of grasses.

At threshing time I obtained two more harvesters. They came from Somerset, and were feeble, half-starved specimens, very wobbly on their pins. I was more concerned with giving them brandy and preserving their valuable lives on that first winter's night than in knowing their sex, but I must admit that I *did* examine them, briefly and carelessly. For two days I kept the Somerset pair separate from the rest in my fear that I should lose them.

The harvest mouse is a companionable creature. He likes company. His quarrels are few, for his nature is peaceable. When the days lengthened in the New Year I noticed a certain liveliness among the eight, which I put down at first to the usual spring fever. In April the intensity of feeling grew; often I watched a game of follow-the-leader through the byways of the grasses. One of the Somerset harvest mice was considerably smaller than the others; "his" popularity with his brethren aroused suspicions. The Essex company frequently pursued each other too, but the chase after the tiny Somerset specimen was of a different quality. Having accepted my disappointment in accommodating a monastic mousery, I did not allow my suspicions to influence the need for cleanliness at the end of April. The house was not actually dirty, but the harvest mice had torn down most of the grasses and laid low the poles of the reeds. What remained was brown instead of freshly green.

While waiting for the house-cleaning to be finished, the doubtful mouse was put with two males into a smaller house. Two days after the temporary removal there were frantic goings-on with this trio, but, looking back, I think the important event was carried through with considerable quietness and discretion. That bed had to be made and someone had to make it, but once the shredded grasses had been twisted into the correct formation of a harvester's nest, things were very quiet indeed. On May 4th, the third day after the removal, I decided to take photographs of the three before turning them back into their spring-cleaned home. I put my hand down; the Somerset mouse immediately ran out of the nest and I saw that she looked queer. Her eyes were different. They looked at me with alarm, in a way that was entirely new to her. Instead of removing her I very carefully parted the grasses of the nest with a stick.

When I discovered two pink-skinned baby harvest mice, each no longer than my thumb-nail, I was so disgusted with my own behaviour that I scarcely appreciated the importance of the happening. With the forceps I lifted one of the babies out. He was very pink, and far from beautiful. His eyes were tightly closed, and around his eyes and cheeks was a blue shading under the skin. His tail appeared long and thick for his age, and his pink paws were the tiniest I have ever seen. I did not touch him with my hands. Suddenly, out of the utter silence he opened his wee mouth and roared. His protest was only a squeak, but he put a lot of energy into it. He clenched his tiny pink fists, kept his mouth wide open, and made such an uproar (in his harvest mouse way) that I feared he might have a fit. Very



AN ACROBAT ALOFT

Harvest mouse indulging in happy gymnastics on a swaying twig. Note how the tail helps the mouse to balance itself

quickly I put him back in his bed, and did not even search further to find how many brothers he possessed. After this unwarranted interference I naturally expected the mother to eat her offspring, just as frightened hedgehogs will do, and even tame rabbits. But on the chance that she might think better of it, I crept about on tiptoe, giving instructions that no one was to be allowed in the greenhouse for a fortnight. A few titivations which I carried out immediately after discovering the family proved to be important in the light of after events. First, I removed the Essex male. I think I should have removed the Somerset male as well, but he had always been intimate with her and was reluctant to be banished; to remove him would have caused more cuffuffle than I cared to risk with the nursing mother. So he stayed with her throughout the entire proceedings. Thinking that the family might be in this small house many days, I cut a sod of grassy turf and slipped it inside. A week after my discovery, it was clear that the original nest was deserted, and that one mouse, at any rate, was sleeping in a new nest constructed under the tent of grasses.

In the normal way the harvest mice had been feeding on various kinds of seed—white canary seed, wheat and wild flower seeds either bought or collected from the garden. For green-stuff they ate the grasses. The mother ate a little grass, but not much. I had a box of ordinary garden peas growing for the long-tailed field mice; the mother harvest mouse consumed two or three pea seedlings every twenty-four hours; she was continually nibbling the green leaves but not the stalks. Although *Micromys minutus* is supposed to devour large quantities of insects, I think he prefers seed and green leaves. This mother would not touch any insect, but I gave her Spratt's Ovals, which she ate eagerly. Her appetite was enormous.

The hopes and fears of the first fortnight of May, 1938, will long be remembered, but we pulled through. On May 15th the young were fully furred, with coats as red-brown as their mother's, but they did not leave the nest until May 23rd and 24th. They quickly learnt to be acrobats of the grasses; in their early days they would run up grasses too slim to support their tiny bodies, and so fall tumbling to earth. Even when a month old they would travel over a wide area away from their mother, yet find their way back again to the nest. As mere toddlers, with top-heavy heads large in proportion to their limbs, they had an excellent bump of locality: I never saw one lose himself, but in the wild a big proportion of harvest mouse babies must disappear down the throats of hawks, owls, stoats, weasels, grass snakes, cats and foxes.

At the end of June the four offspring were about two-thirds the size of their mother, although from a yard distant they could easily be mistaken for her. They are to-day blessed with such untiring energy and insatiable appetites that I am daring to hope that the old lady from Somerset may live to be a grandmother.

PHYLLIS KELWAY



LOOKING AT THE WORLD

One of Miss Kelway's young harvest mice surveys its surroundings, using its prehensile tail as an anchor

IN these days, when our grain supplies are of such vital importance, the uninvited guests that come and feast upon the corn, whether in field or stack-yard, are of particular interest. In the accompanying illustrations are shown characteristic mice of the harvest fields. Here is the large-eared, big-eyed, long-tailed mouse; here also is the even finer yellow-necked mouse, distinguished by a fawn band across its chest; and next we see the pretty little bank vole or red mouse; while last but not least is that wee sprite in sandy red known as the harvest mouse. This tiny rodent is now found chiefly, so far as the British Isles are concerned, in south-eastern and southern England. It was formerly more widespread. Modern agricultural machinery has been blamed for its decline in northern areas, but possibly climatic reasons may have had more to do with it. In view of this the foregoing account by Miss Kelway of her probably unique achievement of breeding harvest mice in confinement is of especial interest.

MICE OF THE CORNFIELDS

(Right) TWO LONG-TAILED MICE SIT SIDE BY SIDE AND LISTEN WITH THEIR LARGE SENSITIVE EARS, THE WHILE THEIR DARK EYES TAKE IN EVERYTHING THAT MOVES



(Above) A HANDSOME YELLOW-NECKED MOUSE SITS HAPPILY ON A TWIG. ITS LITTLE HAND-LIKE PAWS ENABLE IT TO CLIMB CORN STEMS OR BOUGHS WITH EQUAL EASE

(Right) THE WEE HARVEST MOUSE IS THE TRUE MOUSE OF THE CORNFIELDS, EVEN WEAVING AN AERIAL NEST, LITTLE BIGGER THAN A CRICKET BALL, AMONG THE CORN STEMS



(Above) THE BANK VOLE OR RED MOUSE IS NOT SUCH A CLIMBER AS ANY OF THE ABOVE, BUT IT IS A NIMBLE CREATURE AND VERY FOND OF GRAIN

(Right) HARVEST MICE ARE TRULY HOME WHEN THEY TAKE RECH ON THE SWAYING EARS OF THE CORN, WHERE, ASSISTED BY A PREHENSILE TAIL, THEY CAN SIT AND FEAST IN COMFORT



The Road of Ten Thousand Steps

By

ALAN HOUGHTON BRODRICK

Events are moving quickly in French Indo-China, for the French are in no position to resist Japanese demands for air and naval bases, for the use of the railways, and for "economic collaboration." This article describes the only railway line connecting China with the outer world. The control of the Yunnan railway by the Japanese would enable them to reduce Chiang-kai-shek's foreign contacts to those with Russia.



THE NAM-TI VALLEY SEVENTY MILES INTO CHINA

THE Red River, unlike the Red Sea, really is red. Sometimes it is a deep turbid orange. Sometimes, when swollen by the rains of Yunnan and the melting snows of Tibetan mountains, a bright crimson. The fertile plain of Tongking is just the rich alluvial earth which the Red River has for ages pushed into the China Sea.

When the Chinese first came, as conquerors, two thousand and more years ago, the delta was a dense jungle full of tiger, panther, rhinoceros, elephant, and the fierce, gigantic wild ox of Indo-China. To-day these level lands are among the most thickly populated regions of the earth—ricefields as far as the eye can reach, village jostling village: the countryside seethes with hundreds of thousands of little brown figures, jogging along the roads with heavy burdens slung on bamboo poles, crouching, knee-deep in slime, over the rice plants, urging on the water-buffaloes at the plough, hauling rickshaws, squatting behind their wares on the roadside. Eight million people at least live on and off the plain of the Red River.

North-westwards the flat country extends right up to the border. You leave Hanoi, the capital of French Indo-China, and run all night along the Red River banks, through sweltering heat and tropical flora and get to Laokay, the last French post, in the early morning. Laokay is bunched into the shallow valley that is one of the Gates of China. The train rumbles slowly over the international bridge. Beneath, the swirling waters of the Nam-ti and Red River meet. You change trains. A smart-looking girl in the uniform of the Chinese Maritime Customs—so far from the sea!—surveys the baggage examination. The long, low white "Micheline" Diesel-engine rail 'bus is full of international bagmen, elegant Chinese girls, tight-lipped men of indeterminate nationality, Chinese business men, and a sprinkling of French and Annamese.

You swerve to the right to follow the valley of the lower Nam-ti. On the map it looks as though the obvious route for a railway would be alongside the upper reaches of the Red River, but the gradients there would make construction of either road or railroad almost impossible.

It was in 1899 that a French group obtained from the Chinese Imperial Government the concession to build a railway linking up the line from Haiphong on the Gulf of Tongking through Hanoi to Laokay with K'unming, the capital of the Chinese province of Yunnan. The Chinese had been severely defeated by the Japanese a few years before. The Manchu dynasty was obviously tottering to its fall. Everyone was talking of the "break-up" of China. Foreign powers were wringing new economic and territorial concessions from the Government of the Empress Dowager. The French, whose influence since their establishment in Tongking during the eighties of the last century had been considerable in the Chinese south-west, looked upon that region as their share of the spoils. It is significant that the charter specifically stipulated that the projected line should remain open to war material at all times.

Almost incredible difficulties were encountered. Close surveys revealed appallingly sheer mountain-faces, precipices that afforded no foothold, and a deadly climate. Time and time again all the surviving coolies downed their tools and fled in the night. The European foremen, engineers and surveyors died like flies. It is said that every sleeper of the track through the Nam-ti gorges cost the life of a coolie and that there is a European grave every mile. Yet the valley of the Nam-ti is one of the most lovely imaginable. The jade green waters, curling here and there into foam, ripple swiftly through a vale whose walls grow ever closer and higher. At first you are quite near the water's edge running through a tangle of banana bushes, castor-oil shrubs, palms, and masses of dark green, shiny leaves. The tawny hillsides glow in the morning light. Over the surface of the stream dart sapphire blue kingfishers, whose feathers were used to make up those fragile and graceful tiaras in the fashioning of which a man soon lost his sight. There are no signs of human habitation, for the place reeks of death. Jungle fever, malaria of a most malignant kind, and a thousand other ills grip any who linger by the banks of the Nam-ti.

You begin to rise steeply. The track is cut in the face of a precipitous mountain-side. In thirty-five miles you climb up



ON THE MONGTSEU PLATEAU. Coal from the Niuke mines is being brought by oxen to the Yunnan Railway



THE COVERED BRIDGE AT PAN-KI. A typical scene on the Yunnan plateau

from 500ft. to over 6,000ft. You twist and twirl, you shoot in and out of innumerable tunnels—there are more than three hundred of them on the line—over the “lace bridge” which the Japanese have bombed often of late. You slide through a long passage in the rock and out on to the “cross-bow” bridge which spans a chasm between two precipices.

As a feat of engineering, the line would be a marvel anywhere, but when you reflect that everything had to be brought over almost pathless mountains and on coolie-back, it is a wonder that the railway took only ten years to build. Even the native employees spend never more than a few weeks on this part of the line, and it is noteworthy that nowhere until you get to the uplands are children ever born alive.

You are now high above the river. The air is cooler, the vegetation no longer tropical. At the first stop you see traces of rain. You haul over a range of barren grey and purple peaks and then glide down into a fairyland. An immense level stretches on all sides, bordered by great hills which project on to the plain in firs. Shallow, marshy lakes merge into the red earth. There is a russet haze over everything. Here and there a yellowish-brown walled village encloses a jumble of upturned eaves. Hundreds of figures in every shade of blue are bustling about. Strings of pack-ponies and draught-buffaloes, laden down with tin ingots, ramble along the roads. You are at Mongtseu, the caravan station and the depot and storehouse of the tin from the mines at Kokiow and elsewhere across the plains—the tin which is the chief riches of Yunnan. Sometimes the tin is worked in a modern fashion, and sometimes in the cruel old way by little boys who are pushed into the narrow corridors in the crumbling rock which too often collapses and crushes them.

The “Micheline” slips through cuts in the immense flouces of the raddled hills. You are lifting out of the plain. The wayside stations have alluring names: “Pool of the Black Dragon,” “Pass of the Phoenix,” and so forth. Comes more magnificent mountain scenery, then you are down on another ancient lake-bed 5,000ft. above sea level. You might be in Normandy. The train stops at K'ai-Yuen, the model village of the Yunnan Railway Company, full of cottages and herbaceous borders. Here is an excellent hotel run by an Annamese, where, curiously enough, you get much better European-style food than anywhere in Indo-China.



THE LOWER TEMPLE ON THE WESTERN MOUNTAIN,
NEAR K'UNMING, YUNNAN



THE UPPER TEMPLE ON THE FACE OF THE
WESTERN MOUNTAIN

The country is then a succession of broad valleys and intersecting, bleak, bare mountains. The afternoon wears away under a cloudless, pale blue sky. You are getting near to the heart of Yunnan, and the approach is almost terrifying in its magnificence. You climb to the highest point on the line—nearly 7,000ft. Everywhere are great mountain peaks. You twist in and out of schist archways, swerve to the left, glide along the face of a stupendous mountain, and as you curve round it you see slowly opening before you an immense panorama of peaks and plain and a long luminous lake. It is like the view you get as you swing down to the Wallensee going east—only magnified tenfold.

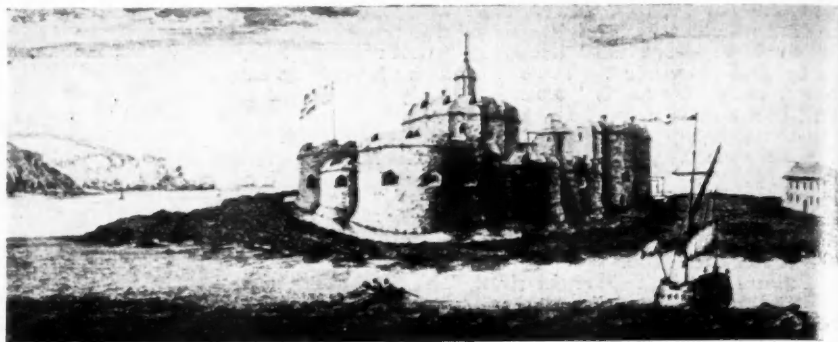
Almost suddenly you leave the wildness and are moving on to a plateau that seems by comparison with all that has gone before thickly populated and familiar. Walled village after walled town, acres and acres of sugar-cane, paddy-fields, water-buffaloes, avenues of willow and poplar, innumerable grave-mounds, their slab entrances set between great beckoning arms of masonry, high funeral columns surmounted by lions, orchards of peach, apple, apricot, almond, orange and lemon. You are in a land of nine-months spring, a valley as sweet as that of Damascus in April and set upon the pent-house of the world.

As the sun sets, the Mountain of the West throws long shadows on the shallow blue-green lake whose surface is covered with little islets, white pagodas, villas, and camel's back bridges, and rippled with the sampans of the cormorant fishers. The huge walls of K'unming rise before you unchanged in appearance since Marco Polo came here.

Such is the Yunnan Railway, the only life-line of China—save that across the northern steppes—which the Japanese have not been able to cut. France is, however, now helpless. The Japanese have “inspectors” in Indo-China. The French are said to be demolishing the bridges into China. The vast troop concentrations we read of cannot, however, be anywhere near the Yunnan line. You cannot move troops across the chaos of the Chinese South-west, and if you could, they could not get down the “Road of Ten Thousand Steps,” as the Chinese call the old tracks across this formidable Giants' Causeway from the Middle Realm to the rich land of Indo-China which the Japanese so covet, for they know that who holds Indo-China holds the China Sea. Indo-China is the first step to the lordship of the Nan-ya of Japanese ambitions—the Southern Sea.

COAST DEFENCE IN 1540

HOW HENRY VIII
PREPARED TO MEET
INVASION



HURST CASTLE AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE SOLENT. BUCK'S VIEW, 173

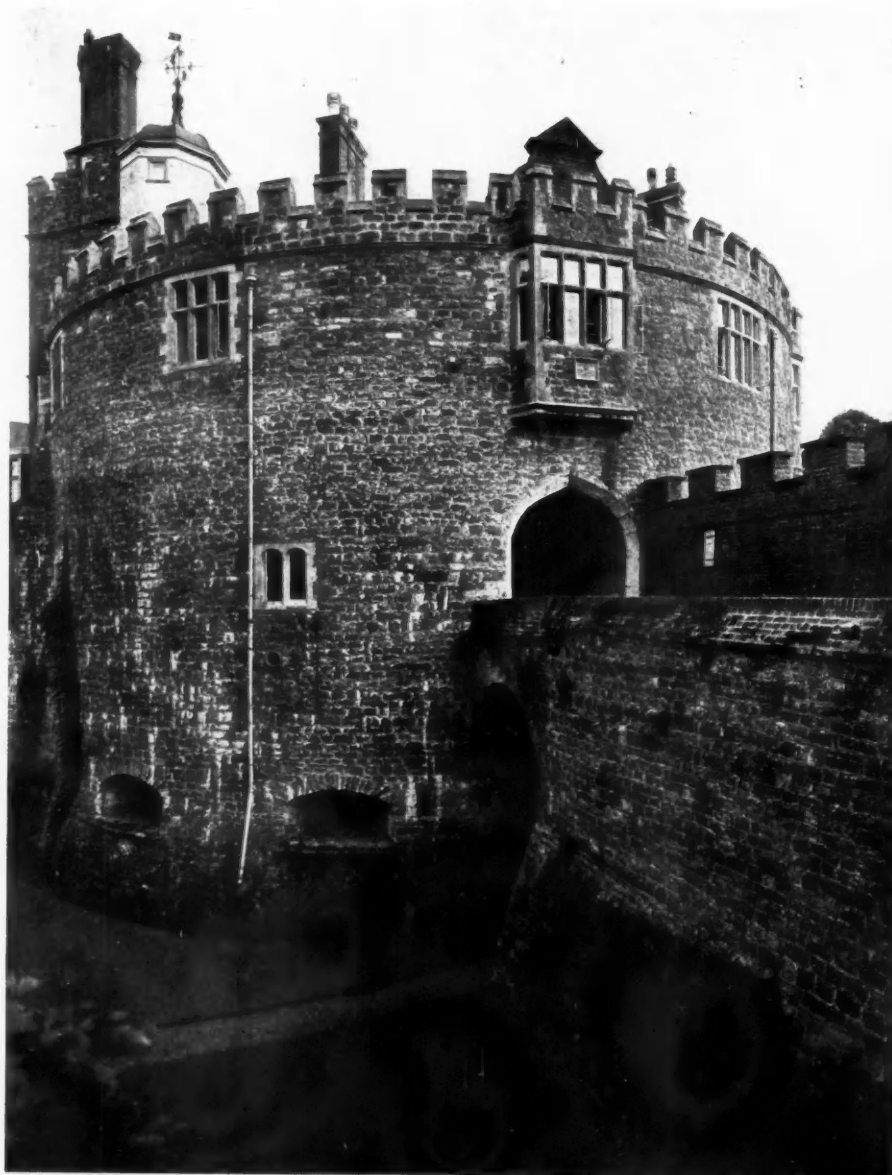
EXACTLY four hundred years ago England stood in danger of invasion, as she does to-day. The peril passed, and the memory of it quickly faded, but it was real enough while it lasted. Unlike the graver perils of 1588 and 1803, it never came to a head, and it made no deep impression on the national consciousness as did the destruction of the Spanish Armada or the marshalling of Napoleon's army on the cliffs of Boulogne. It left behind, however, a permanent legacy, and one that it is interesting to recall to-day when we are again actively engaged in fortifying our shores. Henry VIII's coastal castles and blockhouses, hastily constructed, like the Martello towers, to meet an imminent danger, long afterwards formed the basis of our system of coast defence.

The position in which England found herself in 1540 was the direct outcome of Henry VIII's matrimonial entanglement beginning with the divorce of Catherine of Aragon and his marriage with Anne Boleyn seven years previously. In the interval Anne Boleyn had been beheaded; Jane Seymour had replaced her and had died; but the breach with Rome had not been healed, indeed had grown wider since the King had assumed supreme authority over the Church. So long, however, as France and the Holy Roman Empire remained at loggerheads, Henry VIII had no reason to fear the Pope's fiat, and he went steadily forward with his plans for enriching himself at the expense of the Church by the systematic suppression of the monasteries. But in 1538 his worst fears were fulfilled. Francis I and

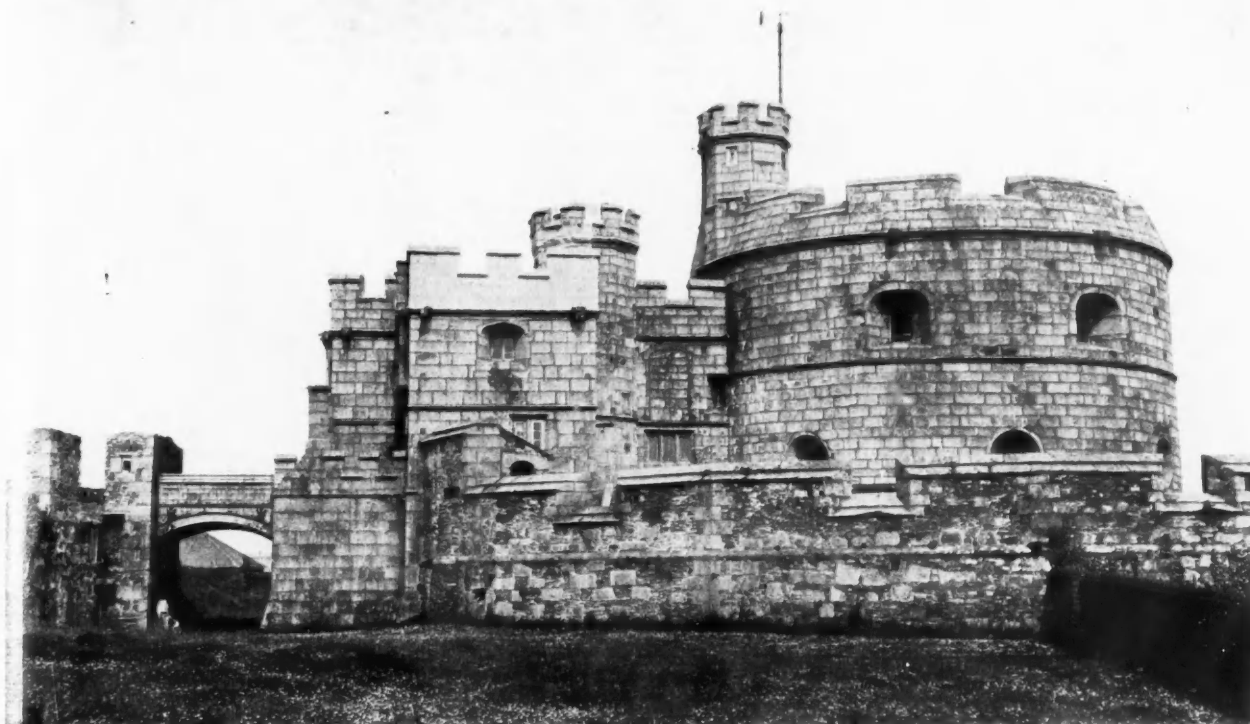
Charles V made a ten years' truce; the Pope finally signed the sentence of excommunication, which had been held for three years in suspense; and the stage was set for a holy war, with the French King and the Emperor in alliance, to drive the apostate out of his kingdom. Henry VIII reacted promptly. He first of all dealt with the Fifth Column. The Lincolnshire rising of 1536 had been suppressed with little difficulty and its ringleaders executed. Now any possible Quislings who might be put in his place were arrested, thrown into prison and beheaded. Among those who were thus disposed of were Henry Courtenay, Marquess of Exeter, a grandson of Edward IV, and Henry Pole, Lord Montague, grandson of the Duke of Clarence. At the same time all precautionary measures were ordered against the threatened invasion.

The King himself took charge of the operations. In the words of the chronicler Hall: "His Majesty in his own person, without any delay, took very laborious and painful journeys towards the sea coasts; also he sent dyvers of his nobles and counsailors to view and search all the portes and daungers on the coastes, where any meete or convenient landyng place might be supposed as well as on the borders of England as also of Wales." Musters were ordered, and, as half a century later, the beacon fires were prepared to give the alarm. Not only were old defences put in repair, but a wholly new series of blockhouses were built to guard the harbours and estuaries along our south and east coasts.

The cost of the national defences begun in 1538 was immense when judged by the standards of the day. Characteristically Henry utilised for the purpose a considerable proportion of the revenues, as well as the materials, of the dissolved monasteries. In this use of Church



Copyright WALMER CASTLE. THE GATEHOUSE BASTION "Country Life"
For the last 200 years it has been the residence of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports



PENDENNIS CASTLE. GUARDING THE ENTRANCE TO FALMOUTH HARBOUR

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property, however reprehensible, he at least showed a constructive purpose for which he has seldom been given credit. These funds, which had to be supplemented by loans, subsidies and "benevolences" on a scale unprecedented in our previous history, proved all too insufficient when the war, long delayed, eventually broke out in 1543, though with England taking the offensive. By that time the Emperor had deserted France and become an ally of England, but four years earlier it had seemed most improbable that the situation would take such a promising turn.

The south and south-east coasts naturally required most

attention, but the fortifications were also carried up northwards—the east coast ports and even places so far north as Hull and Tynemouth, as well as the Northumbrian coast, being included in the scheme, for Scotland had also to be reckoned with. To guard London and the Thames, bulwarks were raised at Tilbury and Gravesend. These, like the harbour forts of Dartmouth and Fowey, were connected by a chain, which could be raised from the river bed to bar a passage to shipping. The most important group of blockhouses were the three "that keep the Downs"—Sandown, Deal and Walmer, built to protect the low-lying shore between Sandwich and the South Foreland



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"Country Life"

BROWNSEA CASTLE. THE PRESENT HOUSE IS BUILT ON THE SITE OF HENRY VIII'S CASTLE, ERECTED FOR THE DEFENCE OF POOLE HARBOUR

where invasion was likeliest. West of these Romney Marsh was covered by Sandgate Castle, built to protect Hythe and Folkestone, and Camber Castle, which performed a similar function for Rye and Winchelsea. The approaches to Portsmouth and Southampton were protected by blockhouses both on the mainland and the Isle of Wight. Hurst Castle, Yarmouth Castle and the pair at Cowes on either side of the Medina estuary commanded the Solent, while Southampton Water was protected by Calshot and another fort higher up, on the other shore, at Netley. The island was provided with a further blockhouse at Sandown, while to guard Portsmouth Southsea Castle was built and new ramparts were raised, though so hastily that within two years they were "clean fallen down" and had to be re-made, the King arriving in person to give directions.

Westward along the coast, Poole was provided with a castle on Brownsea Island, and Portland Harbour with two—the "new castle" on Portland itself and Sandsfoot, its opposite number beside Weymouth. The estuaries of South Devon and Cornwall were not overlooked. Dartmouth, Salcombe, Plymouth and Fowey all had their share of attention, while Falmouth and Carrick Roads were given the sister castles of Pendennis and St. Mawes that confront one another across the entrance to the roadstead. The Scilly Islands were not neglected, and the Welsh fortresses were also put in a state of readiness.

Henry VIII's castles were quite unlike any that had been previously built in England. Since the days of Edward III and the erection of the great Welsh castles the science of fortification had undergone great changes due to the development of artillery. In the fifteenth century few castles of a strictly military character had been built, but in those that had, provision had already begun to be made for gun ports. In Henry VIII's new artillery castles the plan of a high curtain wall enclosing a bailey and punctuated at intervals by towers was abandoned. The structure was kept low, and the defences were concentrated. In the centre was a circular tower or keep, and in most examples radiating from it were a series of semicircular bastions or gun platforms, of lesser height and varying in number from three to six. A broad, deep moat surrounded the whole.

The plans of these castles make interesting and varied patterns. St. Mawes suggests a clover leaf, Pendennis shows two concentric circles, Sandown and Walmer are quatrefoils, Deal, the most elaborate, consists of two sexfoils one inside the other. The basic design, however, is similar in nearly all, and was probably derived from the contemporary forts of Renaissance Italy. In the case of Sandgate, for which two volumes of building accounts have survived, it is known that the architect was a German, Stephen von Haschenperg; and it is probable that he was responsible for most of the others. There is, however, an item in the King's Payments under March, 1538, giving a "reward" of £10 to Antonio Fagion, a Sicilian, "for making of certain devices of bulwarks and blockhouses" and "for his long waiting and offering of his



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WALMER CASTLE FROM THE AIR

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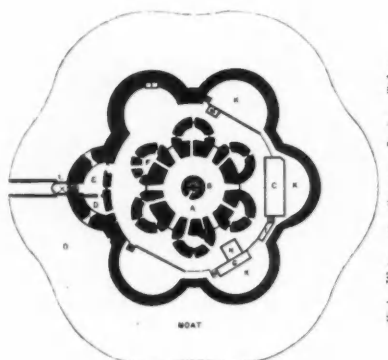
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CAMBER CASTLE. NOW A RUIN, LEFT HIGH AND DRY BY THE RETREAT OF THE SEA

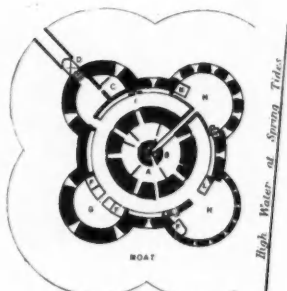
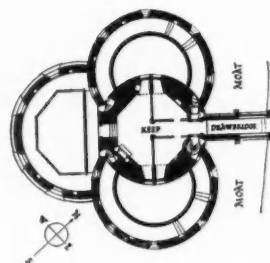
Aerofilms

service." But the inference would seem to be that his services were not accepted.

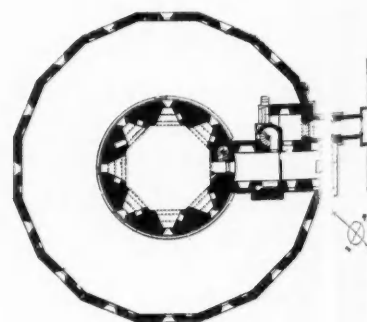
Stephen von Haschenperg, or Stephen "the Almayn," as he is usually referred to, was a native of Moravia—presumably a Sudeten German. As far back as 1535 he had written to Cromwell offering his services to the King "pro armamentario et architecto." He assisted Sir Edward Ryngeley, Comptroller of the Works at Calais, in the fortification of that town, and was brought over by him to England when Ryngeley was put in charge of the three castles in the Downs. In the Sandgate ledger books he is described as "devisor," and he signs the accounts with the letters "ic" after his name for "iconomus" or director. There can be little doubt that he was also the architect of Sandown, Deal and Walmer Castles, for in April, 1539, he wrote to Cromwell from Deal, where he had been left in charge of the works in Ryngeley's absence. The building of



DEAL

PLANS OF HENRY VIII'S COASTAL CASTLES
WALMER

ST. MAWES



PENDENNIS

The plans of St. Mawes and Pendennis Castles reproduced by permission of the Controller, H.M. Office of Works. Copyright H.M. Stationery Office.



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WALMER. THE BASTIONS FROM THE MOAT, NOW DRY

Sandgate was begun in March, 1539, and completed by October, 1540. For the stonework the dissolved priories of Horton and St. Radegund's, Dover, were laid under contribution, and also some of the monastic buildings of Christ Church, Canterbury, just as Beaulieu Abbey and Quarr Abbey were made to serve as quarries for Hurst and Calshot and the castles at Cowes. The total cost of Sandgate Castle was about £5,500.

In 1541 von Haschenperg was sent up to Carlisle to superintend the fortification of the town against the Scots. He had been rewarded for his services by an annuity of £60 and the grant of property in West Ham, but his prosperity was short-lived. In the summer of 1543 he was reported as having "behaved lewdly and spent great treasure to no purpose," and in the following autumn he was dismissed. From Flanders, whither he retired, he spent the next two years writing long Latin letters to the King asking to be reinstated, but without avail. Even his glowing description of a new system of water-supply for country houses, which he offered to install at Nonsuch, had no effect.

But to return to the castles. Of the three in the Downs, Walmer and Deal have survived as residences, the former as that of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports; Sandown, after having suffered from the inroads of the sea, was demolished in 1864. At Sandgate only the inner core of the castle remains. Camber, experiencing the opposite fate of Sandown, is now more than a mile inland, having been deserted by the sea.

The best preserved of the Isle of Wight-Southampton group is Hurst Castle at the entrance to the Solent. Its situation on the spit of land running out from Milford is similar to that of Calshot. Both are mentioned as suitable sites for blockhouses in a report which the Earl of Southampton sent to Thomas Cromwell in March, 1538. Hurst does not seem to have been completed until 1544. It has the typical plan of a central keep with radiating gun platforms. On the opposite shore a smaller fort at Yarmouth was built to supplement it, so that between them they commanded the passage, which at Hurst is not more than a mile wide. The armament of Henry VIII's forts consisted chiefly of "culverins" and "sakers," which threw balls of 17½lb. and 5½lb. respectively. Doubtless their range varied considerably according to the quality of the powder, but the extreme range of a culverin is said to have been 2,100 paces or about a mile, of a saker about 1,200yds.

Perhaps the most interesting and certainly the most beautiful of Henry VIII's castles is little St. Mawes, guarding Carrick Roads. Begun in 1540 and completed in 1543, it was probably designed by Stephen the Almayn. Its compact trefoil plan is in itself a thing of beauty, and its strictly military purpose did not debar architectural ornament and even sculpture. High up above the entrance to the central tower is a panel elaborately carved with the arms of Henry VIII, and in the string-course running round below the battlements and also on the three bastions are a series of inscriptions in Latin hexameters. They were composed by John Leland, chaplain and

antiquary to Henry VIII, at the request of Thomas Treffry, the Clerk of the Works. "Semper honos Henrice tuus laudesque manebunt" ("Henry thy honour and praises will endure for ever") is one example. Another, which the learned chaplain possibly wrote with his tongue in his cheek, expresses the hope that Prince Edward may resemble his father in fame and deeds: "Edwardus fama referat factisque parentem." The central tower or keep consists of four storeys: a basement, in which was the kitchen and where the stores were kept, the garrison's messroom, the entrance floor, and the gunroom, the openings of which were probably used for muskets or calivers. The heavier artillery was mounted on the bastions and on the roof of the tower, which are crenellated. A little watch-tower, altered in Renaissance times, rises above the battlement level. Pendennis Castle, on the Falmouth side, has a similar central tower, but instead of the radiating bastions there is a circular curtain wall. The outer defences were

added later, in Queen Elizabeth's reign, when Spain, not France, was our enemy.

The first stage of the war ended with the capture of Boulogne in September, 1544. But after this success we were deserted by the Emperor, who made a separate peace with France. England now carried on the war alone. The danger of invasion again raised its head, and Henry redoubled our effort, and in the face of the common peril he had a united nation behind him. Then, as now, the war was financed partly by loans, partly by taxation—the hated "subsidies," which, now that they were not destined merely for the Royal purse, were paid, if not cheerfully, at least in a mood of stoic resolution. The King's



ST. MAWES CASTLE, OPPOSITE FALMOUTH

The entrance to the Keep

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third expedient—debasement of the coinage—produced all the evils of inflation which to-day we hope to avoid. But he made personal sacrifices to the extent of mortgaging part of his estates and even coining his plate to meet a war expenditure which in two years reached what then seemed the astronomical figure of £1,300,000. As for the threat of invasion, the French did actually make a landing in July, 1545, at Brading in the Isle of Wight, while their fleet lay at St. Helen's; but it was only a temporary success, and they

never really came to grips with our fleet, under the command of Lord Lisle, who relied on his "row barges" and small craft for their harassing effect, which has been compared to that of torpedo-boats in modern naval warfare. Our greatest loss, the foundering of the *Mary Rose*, one of the heaviest ships in the fleet, was not due to enemy action. The French soon withdrew, and, as in 1588 and 1803, our shores remained inviolate. By the summer of 1546 the war was at an end, and Boulogne remained in our hands.

ARTHUR OSWALD.

TASTE IN OUR TIME

11, UPPER PHILLIMORE GARDENS, THE HOME OF
MR. AND MRS. ERNEST SIMPSON

HAPPILY there are still some houses that the times have not turned upside down, where civilisation is stirring yet. The house on Campden Hill that Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Simpson were furnishing when war broke out, and where these photographs were recently taken, is not least interesting for being probably one of the last, for some time, to receive care and taste in its decoration. The furnishings chosen not only show a charming originality, but illustrate a trend of taste that is still fresh. We may expect that something along these lines will be one of the aims in decoration when happier times return.

Houses will then no doubt need to be smaller, and perhaps farther out from Mayfair than formerly. We may then discover the virtues of surviving Regency villas in once rural suburbs,

and of those solid if unexciting terraces, backed by gardens which protracted the classic tradition till after the Crystal Palace had moved to Sydenham. Or we shall all be living in modern flats.

This house is of the Victorian classic variety. But, except for the quite harmless mouldings of cornice and doors and agreeable spaciousness, the interiors might, as a setting for furniture, be those of a new building. The conditions that have to some extent prompted the method of furnishing here, therefore, apply equally well to impersonal modern interiors to which the occupant wishes to give atmosphere and charm.

This point is stressed because the problem of supplying a background is one of the main difficulties that the possessor or acquirer of nice furniture and pictures will have to contend with.



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1.—THE DINING-ROOM

"Country Life"

Grey landscape paper, black and gilt furniture, crimson upholstery



TWO CORNERS OF THE DRAWING-ROOM:

2.—Background: Oriental screen of ivory colour and grey-greens; foliage in celadon pots; Regency furniture in foreground

3.—Background: Louis XIV carved wood mirror; solidity given to the group of Regency furniture by a Victorian settee in old gold plush

A good deal was being thought and said before the war about this question of "antiques in modern settings," but most of the solutions struck one as either dolling up the background excessively or leaving it too austere and unrelated to the furnishing.

The merit of this example is, it seems to me, that it strikes a happy balance, both of modern and antique, and of personal

idiosyncrasy and accepted taste. And this has been achieved without losing sight of the background problem. The solution consequently has a character of unity, because the three factors involved have been considered simultaneously. Actually, of course, these processes of thought are subconscious, which makes taste such an unending topic of discussion.



Copyright

—ANOTHER CORNER OF THE DRAWING-ROOM

Painted satinwood: cabinet of French type and Hepplewhite chair. Blue the predominant colour in the fine Chinese glass picture



"Country Life"

5.—A GROUP IN THE BOUDOIR

Primrose walls, mustard-colour upholstery with scarlet and plum cushions; background formed by black and gold lacquer screen and dark-toned picture



6.—(Left) MAROON AND BISCUIT DRAPERIES TO A STAIRCASE WINDOW

7.—(Above) IN THE BOUDOIR

Black and gold furniture, touches of green in the upholstery and a painted earthenware "negro" stool

As regards the antique theme, personal preference inclined to the Regency styles—satinwood, painted beech furniture, rich colours and draperies. The clean, graceful lines of Regency furniture are well suited to the plain modern background, if used in moderation and diluted with other elements. Undiluted, the background has to be worked up to match. Useful diluting mediums are selected *chinoiserie* (rather than the products of the early, archaeological dynasties); and certain Victorian objects such as upholstered furniture, which supplies the element of solidity required both for comfort and to balance the linear rhythm set up by Regency design against a plain background. These points are illustrated in Fig. 2, where the celadon-coloured pots, the foliage arrangement, and the lovely Oriental screen (soft greens on ivory) balance the linear designs of the furniture. Again, in Fig. 3, the Victorian settee in old gold plush performs the same function as well as partly enclosing a "conversation centre" round the fireplace, which is just to the left of the group illustrated. The fine quality of the objects is indicated in Fig. 4, notably by the painted satinwood cabinet and the *chinoiserie* glass picture above. The general colouring of the room is set by the satinwood, the walls being a pale apricot, the carpet dull chartreuse green. As the room is a long one, and apt to be dark at times, in spite of the French windows opening at one end into the garden, considerable use has been made of mirrors. The pair, one of which features in Figs. 3 and 4, are a century earlier in date than most of the furniture, but were chosen for their firm shape and the boldness of their cresting, so as to establish the background on their respective walls.

The background problem has been treated in a way particularly interesting to this discussion, for the arrangement of several of the rooms falls into a series of groupings, of course related to others in the same room but separable in theory. Each group also makes its own contribution to the background—whether with a picture, a screen, a mirror, a flower arrangement. Thus they serve this discourse very well to illustrate how, in rooms however small or plain, æsthetic style can be established by selection and grouping of a few pieces. As an instance take Fig. 4: against primrose yellow walls and carpet, a mustard-coloured covered settee with scarlet and plum cushions has, as background, a black and gold lacquer screen, a Staffordshire pottery figure in a puce dress, and the delightful School of Lawrence portrait of children of which the dominant colours are black, grey-blue, and green. None of the components of this group are particularly "valuable," but the effect is distinguished and charming. In another corner of the same room (Fig. 7) are grouped some highly entertaining objects. The cabinet in the centre was copied in pine early in the nineteenth century from a Chippendale type for a lady

amateur to decorate, which she did with little vignettes in *verre églomisé*, applied in gilt mouldings to the black surface which is also touched in with gilt flowers. The adjoining object is the only survivor (small wonder!) of a set of charmingly but very unstructurally designed Regency chairs, also painted black and gold. The little Minton negro, carrying a green cushion, fits happily into this gallery and, incidentally, links up the green in the chintz of the adjacent day-bed with the black furniture.

The dining-room decoration is more elaborate (Fig. 1) in that the background is supplied by a grey landscape paper, and silver silk draperies curtain the bay window. The furniture is black, picked out in gold, the chairs with crimson striped silk upholstery. The table was specially made from *motifs* derived from the rather unusual sideboard of which the front, projecting before the usual pedestals, is supported on legs that seem to be inspired by Gothic clustered columns. These are repeated in the table, the glass-covered top of which has a gilt fret pattern and scrollwork painted on it.

An example of the curtain draperies which are a feature throughout the house is given by that of a staircase window (Fig. 6), the colours being maroon and biscuit. The charming bedroom illustrated (Fig. 8) is predominantly pale blue and oyster white. These are the colours of the bed, the head of which is upholstered in a broadly striped linen, and they are echoed in the general colouring of the screen, painted with scenes of rococo life in the Watteau manner.

The decoration of the house was executed by Messrs. Elden and supervised by Mr. Herman Shryver. CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY.



Copyright

8.—MRS. SIMPSON'S BEDROOM

"Country Life"

Colouring, pale blue and oyster white; the bedhead upholstered in a broad-striped linen

GEORGIAN IRELAND

A REVIEW BY BRIAN FITZGERALD

TOWN AND COUNTRY IN IRELAND UNDER THE GEORGES, by Constantia Maxwell. (Harrap, 18s.)

TO Dr. Maxwell we owe that extremely interesting book, "Dublin Under the Georges," in which she described the city of Swift and Berkeley, Dublin's Golden Age and its monuments. Now she gives us an equally charming and scholarly book on Irish life in town and country during the same period.

Dr. Maxwell, in her Preface, draws an interesting parallel between conditions in eighteenth century Ireland and those in France before the French Revolution:

In both countries agriculture was backward and the peasantry were poor; in both a growing commerce led to the prosperity of the ports. Both Governments were out of touch with the majority of the people, who were exploited in the interests of the rich, the result being in both cases a revolutionary movement which destroyed itself by violence.

Both in France and Ireland, however, a great variety of social conditions was to be found in different parts of the country. Connacht, the last stronghold of the ancient Irish and their ways of living, cut off from the rest of the country by the Shannon, was the Irish Brittany. But there were parts of Leinster, the best cultivated of the Irish provinces, and of Ulster, made prosperous by the linen industry, which were as flourishing as Normandy or the Ile de France. The condition of the peasantry in particular in both countries varied considerably from district to district; while in each there were good (as well as bad) landlords. Dr. Maxwell could have gone even further in her comparison. She could have said that, just as most of the large estates in France had been divided up before any Paris mob stormed the Bastille, so the Penal Laws which so cruelly held down the Roman Catholics and despoiled them of their land, had been relaxed years before the rising of '98. The modern Irishman who sweepingly condemns the Protestant ascendancy, like the modern democrat who wholeheartedly curses Bourbon civilisation, denies history as he does so.

Certainly, the Anglo-Irish dominated the picture in Ireland in the eighteenth century. They held the bulk of the land, and as many official posts as were not given to Englishmen. They were the most powerful, and the most rich, people in the country. But they were also the most progressive. And, despite their faults, which were the vices of the age, there were many good landlords and public-spirited persons among them. (Did they not provide the leaders for the Nationalist movement?) So much has been written about the evils of absenteeism that readers of Dr. Maxwell's book must be surprised to find that actually some of the best managed estates in Ireland belonged to absentees. Even Arthur Young, no friend of the absentee, admitted that many of them spent large sums upon their estates, instancing the Earl of Shelburne, who had "made great exertions for the introduction of English agriculture," and Mr. Fitzmaurice, who had established the linen industry. Later authorities continually mention absentee landlords who had made liberal allowances for the improvement of their tenants and had renewed their leases on favourable terms.

Dr. Maxwell is mainly concerned with these people—the Anglo-Irish gentry, their social life, the houses they built, and their activities as landlords; and it is well that she has included a chapter on the peasantry. The difficulty of generalising about the condition of the Irish peasantry in the eighteenth century has already been remarked upon. It would seem, however, that they were miserably poor, living in indescribably wretched hovels called cabins. But there were certainly many hardworking peasants, and not a few who enjoyed a fairly comfortable existence. All travellers remarked upon their intelligence and humour. A final

chapter is devoted to the Protestant parsons and Roman Catholic priests, whose relations were often of the most friendly character.

This book provides a worthy companion picture to the same author's "Dublin Under the Georges." It is certain to delight many readers, both students of the period and ordinary persons, for many years to come.

SEEING HOUSMAN PLAIN

There must be many people who, like the present reviewer, grateful for what they have received, will not cease to regret that they never saw

A. E. Housman plain, in the flesh, or even wrote their thanks to him. The regret is increased, the loss a little compensated, by a reading of a small new book by Mr. Percy Withers, *A BURIED LIFE: PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF A. E. HOUSMAN* (Cape, 5s.). Mr. Withers is no doubt here a hero-worshipper, but he remains this side of idolatry and is more concerned with giving a true picture of his friend than to make the reader admire him in every particular. The result is that at some moments in his narrative there is that stir and movement, that flash of light which is creation: as Miss V. H. Friedlaender wrote in *COUNTRY LIFE* many years ago:

A glory, a wonder, a wild
delight
And lo, on a page of black and
white
Gleam of gold.

In that gleam of gold we have met Housman, for a moment, here. With all the drawbacks that would attend intercourse with him, the regret that it never materialised for us is increased, for the rare glimpses of his wit and kindliness, the comprehension of his difficulties, serve to make him valuable in the way in which the real is always more valuable than the imaginary. Mr. Withers evidently liked him enough to feel his friendship worth the tenderest cultivation, the greatest patience, the turning of the other cheek whenever necessary—though once he did apparently accuse him of making a "tart" reply to a well meant offer—and his reward was to win probably as much affection as Housman gave to anyone in his later years, and to come nearer to understanding the riddle of his strange nature than any other of his friends. Whether people so sensitive as Housman are to be blamed for the difficulty they import into the conduct of everyday life, by painful silences and outbursts of cruel sarcasm, or pitted as feeling life's vile blows and buffets more than the rest of us who pursue a more even tenour, it is

difficult to say. In Housman's case the other side of the medal is his poetry, hopeless, lovely, technically perfect, a charm beyond price for the young who can delight in sorrow, but with little balm for those who have known grief. Housman gave the world a small and beautiful gem of lovely colour, if of a macabre sparkle, and why, shutting up his heart against life, he forbade himself to give more, even Mr. Withers, with all his sincerity and affection, cannot declare.

EATING ECONOMY

The Vicomte de Mauduit has managed to infuse a marvellous Swiss Family Robinson feeling into his new book, *THEY CAN'T RATION THESE* (Joseph, 5s.), initiating us into methods of cooking with the best results frogs, snails, hedgehogs, squirrels, sparrows, and other native small deer, until we seem as independent of outside help as ever was that resourceful family upon their island. In the case of the hedgehog he thoughtfully advises the cook to kill it before cleaning its inside—a valuable hint for both parties concerned. Quite seriously, this book is one that every dweller in the country should study, for his views on food are as unconventional as the average Englishman's are inclined to be conventional, and as we read we realise how, in the careless wealth of the last fifty years, we have allowed ourselves to ignore native foods of numberless kinds while we followed the easier path that leads ultimately to the tin. If after the war what money we have will be needed for the reconstruction of our world, it will be all to the good if we have formed habits of eating what we can grow or procure for ourselves. Occasionally, as when he advises us to "cover the birds [snipe] with clarified butter"—the italics are ours—or spare a pound of our scanty sugar to make toffee in order to use up beech nuts, we feel that the author is a little like the man who, in the last war, took a taxi from Chelsea to Whitechapel in order to buy a cheaper cauliflower; but, used with due discrimination between what is real economy and what is extravagance for the sake of economy, the book should be as valuable as it is original and fecund of ideas.

(Further reviews will be found on page xx.)



A. E. HOUSMAN, Souldern Court, May, 1922
From "A Buried Life"

GOLF BY BERNARD DARWIN

CRATERS

I WALKED the other day to see some bomb holes—they were hardly worthy the name of craters—which had been made in a piece of open, quiet country near to where I was staying. No amount of hooking or slicing, not the most outrageous over- or under-clubbing could have accounted for them. There was once a famous summing-up by a famous judge which began: "The prisoner says he aimed at nothing. Unfortunately he missed it." It would be entirely applicable to the German who made those holes except that he did not miss nothing; fortunately he hit it with great accuracy. He had rattled my windows for me the night before, and so I felt bound to go and see his holes, but they were hardly worth it save for one. This was in a meadow of sandy soil, so that the hole instantly and pleasantly reminded my golf-warped mind of a pot bunker: not very deep, but with a little rampart thrown up on one side to prevent getting out being altogether too easy.

I remembered during the last war to have played a round of golf on a Greek course, the name of which has gone from me. The one fact I am sure of is that the only bunkers—or, more strictly, hazards—were shell holes. Recalling that course and now seeing this wasted pot-bunker, I wondered if many golf courses, some of them perhaps old and familiar friends, had had many new bunkers of this kind made in them; further, whether, as is sometimes the case, the accidental bunker had turned out better than any that the architect could devise. If there are any such, I cannot help hoping that some at least will be kept, after the war is over, as memorials and, if they are in rather "unfair" places so much the better. I know one course, and a very engaging one, at Ormskirk where one had to play sometimes out of Cromwell's trenches, dug during his siege of Lathom House. If that still feels romantic, so may these pot-bunkers to the golfers of nearly three hundred years hence.

What I hope for still more, however—and now my cloven foot is going to appear—is for a new putting green or two made in these bomb craters. I know such greens are now unfashionable and condemned by all the best people; that these are fluky and, if there are too many of them, tiresome; but I will maintain that just a very occasional one is fascinating fun. A few months ago on Banstead Downs I saw a green at the bottom of an old gravel pit, overgrown with grass long since, and it gave me a nostalgic and wistful feeling in my inside. I recalled all manner of dear, departed greens in hollows. There was first of all the second green on the old nine-hole course at Felixstowe. It was a one-shot hole, with its teeing-ground close to Willie Fernie's shop, the Martello tower on the right, and a moderately innocuous cross-bunker in the way. When I call it a one-shot hole I mean for

grown-ups. For me, at the age of eight or nine, it demanded a full drive which might carry the bunker, and then a good long pitch; but I did it more than once in three, and that was the beauty of the crater; it was so small that once the ball got into it it was more likely to lie dead than not. Then there were the fifteenth and seventeenth at Aberdovey, of which the seventeenth is long since dead and is indeed a wild moraine of slate. The fifteenth was always called "the Crater," and is so still by a few survivors, such as myself, of a vanished epoch. The green is in the same place, and here and there some traces remain of the old, kindly banks which turned the ball inward to the hole; but where are the "pineapples," those elaborately built battlements of bent grass which once grew on the bank in front of the green and were hacked to pieces by niblick shots? That bank has gone altogether. The hole is now, I candidly believe, one of the very finest two-shot holes on any course anywhere for anybody; but, while I admire the new, I loved the old.

The race is not altogether extinct. There is a capital specimen on the new course at Walton Heath—I think the fifteenth. That—unless, as Mr. Peggotty said, my wits have gone birds'-nesting—the sixth green at St. Anne's is in a distinct crater, and so is the third at Burnham. They are not so friendly and helpful as some of those I have mentioned, but I still have pleasant recollections of a very bad shot of mine at Burnham ending very close to the hole.

No doubt there are others that I ought to recall, but it is the ghosts that haunt me. There was that one at Formby which marked the leaving of the flatter country and the setting out into the noble land of mountains and mountain gorges. Admittedly the short hole, with its green almost overlooking the old crater, is incomparably better, and yet sentiment may drop its tear. So it may over the old sixth (I think it was) at Hunstanton. There too a far better—indeed, a horribly good and narrow—green has been planted, looking down contemptuously on the poor old hollow. Lastly, there was the seventeenth at Sandwich, which had in the highest degree all the good—or bad—qualities of a crater, since, after two strokes that appeared much of a muchness, one ball would be found to have shot away across the green and the other would be nestling by the flag. At such a critical moment in the round it required either a stolid calm or a very well disciplined behaviour to prevent oneself from running to the top of the hill to see what had happened. I was all square going to that hole in my first University match, and I am very sure that I ran. Cricket is not the only game which can boast of its "glorious uncertainty," but that of golf is not quite what it was since craters were abandoned.

MORE THOROUGHBREDS FOR AMERICA

YEARLINGS, MARES AND STALLIONS

AS was generally expected, one of the features of the recent Saratoga Yearling Sales was the disposal of the eight Irish-bred yearlings from the Fort Union Stud in County Limerick, which had been sold *en bloc* by Lord Adare to Mr. A. B. Hancock of the Claiborne and Ellerslie Studs in Kentucky, U.S.A. These realised \$53,000, or about £10,600, and contributed roughly a quarter of the \$208,550, or £41,710, made by the fifty-four youngsters disposed of at that session. Top price was made by a chestnut colt by the Derby and St. Leger winner, Hyperion from Gwyniad, a Salmon Trout mare who was a winner of the Haverhill Stakes, has bred winners and traces back to Festive, the dam of the Oaks heroine, L'Abbesse de Jouarre. The price paid for this lot by Mr. and Mrs. Lunger of Wilmington (Delaware) was \$16,000, or roughly £3,200, which is little less than the 3,300gs. made by Gwyniad's colt by Bosworth when he was disposed of at Doncaster in 1938. The next highest price was the \$8,000 or £1,600, which was disbursed by Mr. W. P. Chrysler, one of the members of the Bahram syndicate and himself the owner of the Teddy horse, Chrysler II, for a bay colt by Bahram from Quick Action, a young Hurry On mare who descends from Pharmacie's dam, Prescription. Here again the price was satisfactory, as Quick Action's yearling colt by Loaningdale fetched but £1,050 at Doncaster in 1938. It seems strange to read of British bloodstock coming under the hammer in America, but, with no market here at the moment, the prices made afford a pointer that breeders will not be slow to take advantage of either by selling *en bloc* to an American buyer, as Lord Adare did, or cataloguing their properties in their own names at Saratoga.

Mention of Mr. Arthur B. Hancock draws attention to the scale upon which this sportsman is purchasing thoroughbred stock in England. The owner of the Claiborne and Ellerslie Studs at Paris in Kentucky, where such famous horses as Sir Gallahad III, Gallant Fox, Omaha, Flares, Jacopo, Blenheim and Hard Tack are in residence, he has recently added to his collection of British thoroughbreds the young stallion, Rhodes Scholar, and some particularly choice young matrons from Lord Astor's famous Cliveden Stud. Sold for no other reason than that room will

be wanted for Lord Astor's grand young horse, Quick Ray, who is by the Derby and St. Leger winner, Hyperion from the Oaks heroine, Pennycomequick, at the Littleton Stud next season, Rhodes Scholar is an attractive proposition both on breeding and performances. An own-brother in blood to the Two Thousand Guineas winner, Pay Up, and a three-parts brother in blood to that successful sire, Canon Law, he is a son of Pharos, who, like the St. Leger winner, Fairway, was by Phalaris from Chaucer's daughter, Scapa Flow; his dam Book Law won the Doncaster classic and seven other events worth in all £32,750, and was by Buchan from Poppingaol, a descendant of the famous mare Paraffin, whose family was responsible for so much of the racing success of the late Lord Rosebery. On the racecourse, though never winning a classic, he had at one time or another the classic winners, Mahmoud and Boswell, behind him, and was successful in the St. James's Palace Stakes, the Eclipse Stakes and the Ribblesdale Stakes, worth in all £14,326. Our loss is mitigated by the fact that Pay Up remains at Littleton; that Rhodes Scholar will do an immense amount of good in America is certain, and Mr. Hancock is fortunate in obtaining the mares with him, as the combination will afford him, if he wishes, an opportunity of, so to speak, forming a replica of the famous Cliveden breeding establishment. Six in all and the oldest only nine years old, these matrons are: Penicuik, a half-sister to Quick Ray and Golden Penny by Buchan from Pennycomequick, with a chestnut colt foal by Hyperion and mated with him again; Sunbeat, an own-sister to Traffic Light by Solario from Point Duty, with a bay colt foal by Fairway and bred back to him; Miss Erene, a daughter of Buchan from Gay Bird, who has with her a chestnut filly by Mahmoud and has visited him again; Song of Battle, a Blenheim mare who is out of Solario's daughter, Soloist, and has been mated with Rhodes Scholar; Royal Favourite, a half-sister to Early School by Palais Royal from the Hurry On mare, Quick Rise, who has been covered by Rhodes Scholar; and the maiden two year old filly, Eastbourne, who claims Easton as her sire and, like Crème Brûlée and Betty, is out of Miss Cavendish, she by Chaucer from the Oaks winner, Sunny Jane, a granddaughter of Sceptre.

Returning to more stallions who have either left for the States or are awaiting an opportunity to leave, Mrs. Macdonald-Buchanan, after a great deal of persuasion, has parted with Easton to Mr. F. Wallis Armstrong, and he will stand next season at this owner's Meadowview Stud at Moorestown in New Jersey. A French-bred nine year old, Easton, save for his birthplace is essentially British, as his sire Dark Legend, the sire also of the One Thousand Guineas and Oaks victress, Galatea II, was, like Son-in-Law, by Dark Ronald, and his dam Phaona, who was by Phalaris from Destination, was bred at the Willitof Stud and was sold to Mr. Strassburger, who bred him, for 1,100gs. at the December sales of 1926. Racing and winning in France as a youngster, he made his first appearance in this country in the Two Thousand Guineas when, carrying his breeder's colours, he finished second to Colombo. Following this, he was sold to the late Lord Woollington for £15,000, and, besides running second in the Derby

to Windsor Lad, won a number of races, including the Select Stakes and the Ribblesdale Stakes, before retiring to the stud in 1936. Last season witnessed the appearance of his first crop of runners, and from among them he was responsible for three winners of three races worth £1,172. A genuine horse and a good one to look over, he should be an asset to his new home, as should Chrysler II, who is the last to mention at the moment. Like Easton, a French-bred horse, Chrysler II, who is now in his ninth year, is by that famous sire, Teddy from Quick Change, a Hurry On mare who was bred by the late Sir Robert Buchanan Jardine, and was sold to go to France for 550gs. Never running until he was a three year old, he came over here in the following season, and proved himself by winning many races, including the Salisbury Cup, the Babraham Stakes and the Durham Handicap, worth in all £2,764. His new owner is Mr. W. P. Chrysler of the Bahram syndicate.

ROYSTON.

CORRESPONDENCE

JANUARY IN JULY

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—I think the enclosed photograph might be called the antithesis of the song, "It's June in January." As a matter of fact it was taken on July 27th after a heavy hailstorm. Hailstones, on the north side of the house, were piled up to a height of 8 inches.—GWYNETH PENNETHORNE.

A MIDDLESEX FIGHTER

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—In these times when there is comparatively little cricket many people must be looking forward to the day when the Middlesex XI once again take the field at Lord's. No one can doubt that the fulfilment of this hope very largely depends on the Royal Air Force, and as a former captain of Middlesex I would suggest that a fund should be opened to buy a fighter from contributions given by all those who in days gone by have watched Middlesex play at Lord's. I understand that the crests of various colonies, cities, towns and boroughs are inscribed on the machines which they have presented, and how better could the arms of the Middlesex County Cricket Club—three scimitars—be carried than by a fighter of our incomparable Air Force? My idea is that everyone should contribute a shilling—more if possible—and send it to me, Middlesex County Cricket Club Fighter Fund, c/o The Manager, Barclays Bank, Limited, Wellington Road, London, N.W.8, who has kindly consented to receive donations. May one, whose life was for so long and so happily connected with Middlesex, make an earnest appeal to lovers of Middlesex cricket to provide at least one more fighter to take its place in the forefront of battle *per ardua ad astra*?—P. F. WARNER, Middlesex County Cricket Club, Lord's, N.W.8

BELLE ISLE, WINDERMERE

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—The interesting articles in your issues of August 3rd and 10th pass over much of the early history of this island when it was an



A CARPET OF HAILSTONES

important centre of local life. In or about 1256 the Barony of Kendal was divided and Windermere was granted to Walter de Lyndesay (d. 1272), who built a manor house on "the Holme" and founded a chantry chapel on one of the smaller islands (now called Ladyholme). The manor house seems to have been occupied by his descendants until the beginning of the fourteenth century and then to have fallen into disrepair. It is quite possible that the

supposed Roman remains found on Belle Isle in 1774 were the remains of this mediæval house. "The Holme" must have descended through the various owners of the manor of Windermere until it came into the possession of the Philipsons of Calgarth in the sixteenth century. By this time there was again a habitable house on the island, and it was from there, during the Civil Wars, that Major Robert Philipson, "Robin the Devil," went to Kendal (not Bowness) and rode into the church looking for Colonel Briggs. Afterwards the island was the home of Robert's nephew, Christopher Philipson, who built a new house there in 1673, represented Westmorland in Parliament, was knighted in 1681, and became Deputy Lieutenant in 1684. Sir Christopher died some time after 1704, and his daughter and heiress, Frances Philipson, sold the property. The picture illustrated in Fig. 9 of your issue of August 3rd seems to be wrongly named "Head of Ullswater." It shows the Head of Windermere as seen from near Belle Grange, and is substantially the same view as Fig. 11.—B. L. THOMPSON.

SAM BOUGH

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—Reference was made in the articles on Belle Isle to a painting by Sam Bough. There is another fine picture by him in the same house, of Workington Hall, the principal home of the Curwen family. It is signed and dated 1842. Bough is all but forgotten, but this work suggests that he was no mean artist, who, though influenced by Turner and Clarkson Stanfield, has a vigorous realism of his own. His career bears this out. He never studied at any art school, but, son of a shoemaker at Carlisle, ran away from a lawyer's office to wander about with some gipsies, painting water-colours as he went. In 1838 he was in London, where he copied some pictures in the National Gallery. The Workington picture comes between that date and 1845, when he was taken on as scene-painter at Manchester. The President of the Royal Scottish Academy persuaded him in 1849



WORKINGTON HALL, BY SAM BOUGH

to take up "legitimate" painting, and he thenceforth lived chiefly in Edinburgh, where he died in 1878. He is said to have been "a thorough Bohemian, a fine natural musician, well read in the older English literature, and with a warm heart concealed by an abrupt and sarcastic exterior."—CURIOUS CROWE.

"FOOD FROM THE SEA"

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—Having spent over a year on the Pembroke coast, I was specially interested in "M. W.'s" recent photograph of the laver-pickers' huts and in her accompanying note. Perhaps it may be usefully and pertinently

priority over other crops, when the limited supplies are distributed. As seaweed is extremely rich in potash, I think the possibility of using more seaweed might pertinently be canvassed once again.—RUSTICUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—The making of laver bread is an industry more peculiar to the Gower coast than to the Pembrokeshire coast. Your correspondent, "M. W.," is not quite correct in stating that "after plenty of washings it can be fried with the breakfast bacon." It is fried with the breakfast bacon after the vendor has given it "plenty of washings" and finally boiled it to a soft mush, in which form it is sold, with a liberal coating of oatmeal. Farmers on the Gower coast use the coarse seaweed as a manure. They swear that it imparts a delicate flavour to potatoes. English visitors to the Gower Coast often remark on the "nice potatoes" they are served with at boarding houses and hotels. Potatoes thus inadequately described have invariably been grown in seaweed manure.—A. MORRIS.

"SALVAGE" IN THE MIDDLE AGES

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—The question of "salvage" for defence purposes is so much in the air at the moment that it may interest your readers to see the enclosed photograph. It represents a corner of the mediæval "kastro," or stronghold, on the Greek island of Paros in the Aegean, built by its Frankish overlords. The tower is entirely composed of "scrap" taken from ancient Greek ruins, including drums of columns, seats from the theatre, and inscribed blocks. Naturally, everything is of the pure shining Parian marble of which the island is composed, and which was so much exported in ancient times for the use of sculptors and architects.

Incidentally, this castle is a fine example of the art of "dry walling"; cement is nowhere used, in spite of the variety in size and shape of the material.—C. A. HARRISON.

A WATERY LOVE-MAKING

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—The pigeons shown in the photograph were most amusing to watch. The cock, a fine fellow, with beautifully lustrous neck and throat, had set his heart upon a hen who paid him little heed. She turned her back upon him, waded into the water and proceeded to have a good bathe; but he, nothing daunted, strutted up and down at the water's verge, cooing and bowing to her while she splashed about in seeming indifference. Nor did he relax his attentions when she, almost as wet as the proverbial drowned rat, came ashore. The last I saw of them she was permitting him to kiss her head and neck feathers.—F. P.

A PROBLEM SOLVED

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—In St. David's Cathedral, close to the font, there stands a stone that has long puzzled the antiquaries. Recently Professor R. A. S. Macalister, F.S.A., has succeeded in deciphering the very much worn inscription, and his verdict is as follows. The stone (which has been slightly hollowed out at the top, possibly at



A DEVONSHIRE SEAWEED GATHERER

added that there are, widely distributed on our coasts, at least four other seaweeds which are edible and have a high dietetic value for human beings, and that some could easily be prepared to make war-time dog foods. For example, I have read that Carrageen moss (usually associated with Ireland and widely famous for its nutritive merits) was collected and used by dog-owners in England during the last war; a jelly was made by boiling it, and sometimes shellfish were added, partly to make it palatable.

An extremely valuable and insufficiently exploited, though well known, use of the commonest seaweeds is as manure. I enclose a snapshot, taken three years ago at Branscombe in Devon, which shows how highly the growers of early potatoes esteem the fertilising qualities of the weed. They rip it off the rocks at low water (in bitter January winds) and then pack it up the narrow cliff paths on the backs of donkeys, just as the Western Irish do.

During this last week in which I write it has been announced that potash supplies are being limited, and that potatoes must have



"DAVID ERECTED THIS SHRINE FOR THE BONES OF THOMAS AND DAVID"



PART OF THE MEDIEVAL "KASTRO" OF PAROS, BUILT OF SALVAGED MATERIALS

some later time) is the base of a shrine. The archaic Latin inscription may be translated as follows: "David erected this shrine for the bones of (St.) Thomas and (St.) David." I enclose a photograph of the stone, and also a copy of the Professor's drawings, which show how much of the inscription has been cut away: the darker shaded lettering is that which remains, the rest is his brilliant restoration.—M. W.

FARM LABOUR IN ARGYLLSHIRE

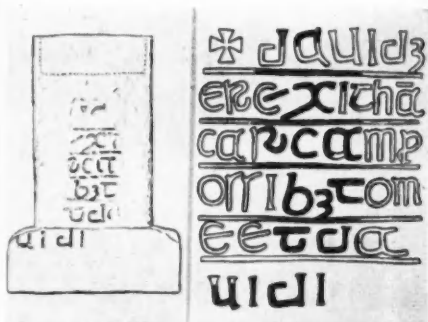
TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—You were sufficiently interested to publish my recent letter describing the lack of contacts that exists between the Minister and/or Ministry of Agriculture, the Farmers' Unions and



THE PIGEONS' COURTSHIP

county agricultural agencies, and the actual working farmer. Since writing that letter I have duly succeeded in obtaining a vacancy on this farm in North Uist—but, note again, by private contact. Not one word has reached me from any of the official farmers' agencies, to which I applied so long ago. I was, therefore, interested to see that Major Macculum, M.P. for Argyll, announced in the House of Commons a few days ago that there was a complete absence of skilled and unskilled labour in Argyllshire as this was one of the areas to which I made special application; and while I do not lay claim to being a skilled labourer, I am somewhat more than a semi-skilled one; and most of my farming experience has been on hill sheep farms. It was the rather special nature of this type of farming that Major Macculum cited as the reason why it was impossible to employ members of the Women's Land Army or outside labour. I would suggest that instead of employing hundreds of potential hill workers in navy work in the Western Isles and western Ross, the War Office should import this navy labour from the big towns and release the local crofter for farming—though, naturally, it will not be easy to convince the latter that £3 a week a farm hand is as good as £8 or £9 a week a War Office navy.—RICHARD PERRY.



THE ESTATE MARKET

"BUY ARABLE LAND"

In an ordinary year August transactions would hardly have equalled in amount what has been realised in this extraordinary year's "holiday month." Of course, it has been anything but a holiday, and the turnover through estate agency in the closing August reflects rather the uncertainty of the average investor as to the outlook for urban properties, individually and collectively, than a strong preference for the buying of farms and small holdings. Many people who have put their surplus funds into urban property know nothing about the management of land, and if they are wise they will not attempt the task. In every district there are reliable agents who will look after the interests of a newcomer to the ranks of agricultural ownership. The fees for such skilled supervision, and the incidents of rent collection, assessments and so forth, are not at all onerous.

NOVICES IN LAND OWNERSHIP

THE new interest in land as an investment—in particular farms—is producing some unusual instructions. For example, a West End solicitor laughingly mentioned how an elderly client, a City man whose investment activities had always been confined to stocks and shares, and an occasional mortgage or ground rent in London, lately ordered him to "buy arable land: hundreds of acres, if you can get it: they can't bomb the value out of that." With these instructions it was found possible in a few days to acquire on most advantageous terms a nice house, buildings and about 100 acres, and to take over a good tenant, at a fair rental.

In view of the existing level of prices for sound country freeholds in many localities, the question may well be asked whether, at whatever temporary loss and inconvenience the owner can hold on, he is wise in wishing to part with his property. This applies especially to the small residential lots, a little house and an acre or two, and one instance will serve as well as any to illustrate the point. A Sussex freehold of a couple of acres, with a house built less than twenty years ago, kept well abreast of improvements, represents a total outlay of towards £1,650. The owner will forego the £1,000 to dispose of the property. In such cases, and there are many, the question of market value scarcely enters into an owner's calculations; what he has in mind is such a consideration as the difficulty of ensuring that those who look after the house for him will avoid trouble in various ways or he may be expecting shortly to return to active military service.

BARGAINS IN THE COASTAL AREAS

IT is the same with houses and shops on or near the coast. One of the principals of a prominent West End agency remarked a few days ago that with a very moderate capital anyone could pick up, say, one or two freeholds in a dozen resorts, and reasonably expect that, even allowing the exceptional ill-luck of losing a couple by enemy action, he would, when things again become normal, make a high profit. Local agents and, of course, most London agents are ready to assist anyone who cares to make such a venture. It may be said that vendors suffer through such sales, but to many of them, faced with the necessity of finding homes and work elsewhere, the purchase of a property, no matter how inadequate compared with that which would have been obtained in times of peace, means more than the possibility of returning eventually to the places which they have had to leave. It should be added that so far, we have heard of no actual case in which anyone has picked up a selected parcel of land on the lines suggested by the London

agent. If anyone cares to send us examples of such selections, either already acquired or on offer, the communications will be considered for comment in these columns.

Court Farm, Luddesdown, six miles from both Gravesend and Rochester, is for sale, with possession at Michaelmas, by Messrs. Farebrother, Ellis and Co.'s Dover Street office. The holding of 500 acres includes a first-

Willoughby's Hailsham office. The property adjoins Lord Hailsham's estate.

COMPETITION FOR FARMS

AMONG the farms sold by Messrs. Duncan B. Gray and Partners, in the last few days, may be mentioned one in Essex, known as Little Brockholds, near Saffron Walden. This freehold extends to about 110 acres.

Another Essex holding, Ongar Hall Farm, 115 acres, at Orsett, three miles from East Horndon Station, has been privately sold since the auction by Messrs. John D. Wood and Co. It includes a comfortable house, extensive buildings, and 78 acres of good grassland. Ongar Hall Farm is three miles south of the Southend arterial road, and it has 1,650 ft. of frontage to the road from Brentwood to Grays and Tilbury. This farm has been known to yield as much as two tons to the acre of hay, and eight quarters of wheat to the acre. There is a tithe redemption annuity of £27 10s. a year. According to a clause in the conditions of sale: "The Essex War Agricultural Committee have served an Order for the ploughing of Fields 86 and 87 and such Fields are in the course of ploughing. The purchaser shall pay for the ploughing and acts of husbandry at cost and shall make no claim for dilapidations against the vendors."

Said to be "the finest hop farm in England," The Moor, at Eardiston, has 91 acres under hops and, of that acreage, over three-fourths is planted with the variety known as "Goldings." The total area of the holding is 210 acres, and it

was to have come under the hammer of Messrs. Russell, Baldwin and Bright, Limited, with the growing crops, the buildings, and implements. However, the firm received a satisfactory offer for the property before the auction, and a sale was arranged through its Leominster office.

Other sales in the last week or two include White House Farm, Lissington, 148 acres, sold at an auction in Market Rasen by Messrs. Mawer, Cooper and Burkitt for £2,600. In the same county, at Alford, under the hammer of Messrs. Parish, Stafford Walter and Bell acting with Messrs. Dickinson, Davy and Markham, a total of some £8,000 includes £3,000 for Stainsby House Farm, 389 acres at Ashby Puerorum; £3,815 for 217 acres near Alford; and £1,550 for two other farms, one of which Brownlea, 93 acres, made £900.

FARMS SOLD BY EARL FERRERS

BY order of the present Earl Ferrers and the executors of the eleventh Earl, part of the Staunton Harold, Shirley and Hollington estates, altogether amounting to 532 acres, a few miles from Derby and Ashby-de-la-Zouch, came under the hammer of Messrs. Lofts and Warner at Derby. Worthington Fields Farm, 140 acres, let at £245 a year, on the Castle Donington road, realised £5,100; Limes Farm, 144 acres, let at £203 a year, in Breedon-on-the-Hill, made £3,400; and Ropers Hill Farm, 28 acres, three miles from Ashby-de-la-Zouch, was sold for £1,200. All the farms have good houses and buildings. Other lots brought the total to £13,540. There are some sound investments still awaiting offers.

The Birches, nearly 3 acres, at Ockley; Icart, an acre, at East Horsley; High Beech, half-an-acre, at Ashted; Little Beacon, half-an-acre, at Banstead; many Epsom freeholds, and other Surrey properties, have been sold in the last week or two by Messrs. W. K. Moore and Co.'s Carshalton office.

An important Hampstead property, No. 30, Eton Avenue, close to Avenue Road, is offered for sale by Messrs. Maple and Co. The house, which is built in the Tudor style, is well designed and equipped, and stands in grounds of over an acre.

ARBITER.



NEWINGTON MANOR, NEAR SITTINGBOURNE, KENT

rate house and buildings, 124 acres of mature woods, and 245 acres of pasture.

KELMSCOTT MANOR TO BE LET

KELMSCOTT MANOR, Lechlade, William Morris's home, described and illustrated in COUNTRY LIFE (Vol. 1, pages 224 and 256), is to be let for not more than seven years. The agents are Messrs. Hobbs and Chambers (Faringdon), acting for the University of Oxford. The house contains certain furniture and other things of literary and artistic interest, and, under the terms of the bequest of the property to the University, a lessee would have to allow visitors to inspect the house and its contents. A splendid picture of Kelmscott Manor appeared in COUNTRY LIFE last week on p. 168, exhibiting its remarkable individuality and beauty.

So much material of Roman origin was found on and around Newington Manor, near Sittingbourne, that one enclosure is commonly called "Crockfield." Saxons settled on the same spot, and dubbed it "the new town," hence Newington. When the Domesday Book was compiled Newington Manor was scheduled as belonging to Queen Editha, wife of Edward the Confessor. In 1450, the house now known as Newington Manor was built, and the existing very pleasant residence embodies portions of the original structure, and all its ancient charm. Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley are to let the house, which stands in the midst of cherry orchards.

Southlands Manor, Denham, changed hands, on the eve of the auction, through Messrs. George Trollope and Sons and the local agent, Mr. A. C. Frost.

The Priory, a restored seventeenth-century freehold of 2 acres, at Little Horkesley, near Colchester, and a very much older house, The Cedars, Kings Sutton, near Banbury, with an acre of garden, have been sold by Messrs. Wellesley-Smith and Co. They have, in conjunction with Messrs. Bentall, Horkley and Baldry, disposed of Wayside, a Surrey freehold of 7 acres, at Ewhurst.

Details of the Sussex freehold, already referred to, may be had from Mr. Frank

CULTIVATION AFTER HARVEST

WHEN SPEED MAKES TRACTORS MOST NEEDED. BY S. J. WRIGHT

IF for any reason the use of agricultural tractors had to be restricted to two or three months in the year, it is fairly certain that most farmers would decide that they were most useful in autumn. And in reaching that conclusion those of them with previous experience would have in mind not only the main work of ploughing and planting, but also all the preliminary stubble-cleaning which they would hope to get done with their help. The importance of this work can hardly be over-emphasised in present circumstances: many more fields than would be good practice in peace-time will have to grow wheat after wheat; while time and labour spent on more leisurely methods of land-cleaning must of necessity be reduced to a minimum. Stubble-cleaning is very definitely work for a tractor, because the essence of the job is to get over the land quickly; but within reason any tractor and almost any cultivating implement can be used.

TYPES AND IMPLEMENTS

If one type of tractor rather than another has to be chosen, this is one of the occasions on which wheel tractors are to be preferred to track-layers, and pneumatic tyres to steel wheels: because the work is light, and high working speeds are both possible and desirable. As to implements, the traditional broad-share of an earlier generation is rarely seen nowadays, although ordinary cultivators may be fitted with duck-foot points to serve much the same purpose.



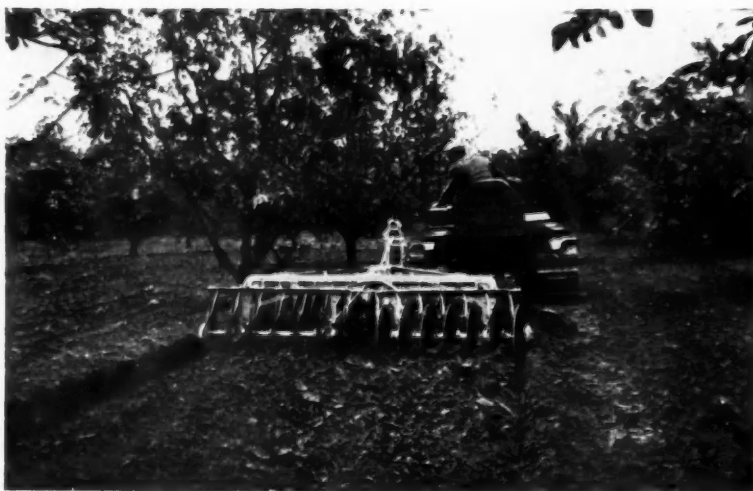
A "CLETRAC" TRACTOR DRAWING A DISC HARROW ON MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S FARM

Another special-purpose implement which, although thoroughly efficient, is not very often used now, is the stubble-paring or "riffler" plough: simply a light multi-furrow plough with small digger-type bodies which are used at a depth of only two or three inches.

One reason why these particular implements have rather gone out of fashion is that, of the two main aspects of stubble-cleaning, cutting the roots of perennial weeds is regarded as less important than encouraging the germination of annual weeds. But a more decisive reason, probably, is that the present-day tractor-user avoids special-purpose implements as much as possible. At all events, the tool most commonly used during the next few weeks is likely to be the disc harrow, of which many more have been sold recently than in any corresponding pre-war period. In this kind of work disc implements have the obvious advantages that they are less likely to be choked by trash or long stubble, while they adapt themselves to a very wide range of soil conditions. If, as is generally the case, the ground is dry and hard, the disc harrow, or better still the polydisc or one-way disc plough, will cut and scratch enough of the surface to bring about speedy germination of charlock and other weed seeds at the first rain. On the other hand, if the season is a wet one, discs have a knack of finding whatever mould there may be and bringing it to the surface. The action is a curious one—and is seen to even greater advantage during seed-bed preparation in a wet spring—but it is certainly effective. Where disc implements are not available, almost anything that will break the surface without getting choked can be made to serve: cultivators, either spring-tined or rigid and with or without special points; pitch-pole harrows, preferably used at high speed and in two directions; and so on. The more of the surface that is actually cut the better, so that broad points should be used whenever available; while, especially when conditions are dry, high speed will give more shattering and a better tilth for germination. Two unusual implements which the writer has seen used during the last few years are a row-crop toolbar frame fitted with A-hoes; and a self-cleaning grassland rejuvenator. Neither is ideal for the work, although either is better than leaving the stubbles untouched. The tool-bar was used on light land, and in heavier going might be in danger of pulling itself to bits; the grassland rejuvenator worked remarkably well, but is not likely to be at all generally available, and is a rather expensive tool for the job.



USEFUL FOR STUBBLE-PARING, A RANSOME "RIFFLER" PLOUGH
A light multi-furrow plough with small digger-type bodies



CULTIVATING IN AN ORCHARD WITH A RANSOME DISC HARROW

FOR QUICK GERMINATION

After ordinary stubble-cleaning has been carried out it is very often noticed that the best germination of charlock and similar small weed seeds occurs where the tractor has turned. This is because these seeds like a fine, firm tilth; and

FARMERS—solve your winter feeding problem NOW!



—don't run the risk of being caught by a shortage of imported feeding-stuffs this winter! Make all the silage you can from aftermath grass and second-cut seeds. It is cheaply and easily done. Portable silos cost very little—or you can make your own. If there is anything you want to know about silage or if you need any assistance, get in touch with your War Agricultural Executive Committee—it is there to help you.

Be sure you visit one of the **FREE Silage Demonstrations** in your district—they will be announced in your local press. Look out, too, for the Silage Film "Mr. Borland thinks again," featuring Emlyn Williams and Beatrix Lehmann—coming soon to your local cinema.

Remember—on Aug. 7th, 1940, Mr. R. S. Hudson, the Minister of Agriculture, said:

"I cannot guarantee . . . that Dairy Farmers will get the quantity of imported feeding-stuffs they normally use. I can think of no better insurance than silage."

MAKE

Silage NOW!

ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

when the stubble is on the dry side and breaks up lumpily it will be well worth while to use a medium harrow behind the implement first used. Unfortunately, however, even this treatment will not cause ready germination of some of the most troublesome weeds of corn-growing, because these seeds normally lie dormant over winter. Among them, wild oat and slender foxtail are the most difficult to deal with. One method that has proved very successful where it can be applied was discovered accidentally by a mechanised corn-grower who thought that stubble-burning after harvest might destroy the shed weed seeds on the ground. He found (as all the inventors of flame-throwing weed eliminators have found) that most seeds lying on the ground will stand an enormous amount of heat without damage. In fact, as this particular farmer discovered, the effect of stubble-burning on the seeds of wild oat and slender foxtail was just the opposite: it encouraged germination, and so brought these two troublesome weeds into the class that can be dealt with by autumn cultivation. He and his neighbours



A PITCH-POLE HARROW, USED AT HIGH SPEED, WILL BREAK UP THE STUBBLE

A John Wilder implement drawn by a pneumatic-tyred tractor

ly placed so that tractor and implement can work between the more than three-quarters of the land can be broken before it has had time to bake. Moreover, if the surface has been broken before rain, when it does come, will penetrate very much more easily. In a wet season, on the other hand, stools may stand so long that no time at all can afterwards be spared for preliminary cleaning operations. In any case, there will be so much ploughing to get on with this year that the time for stubble-cleaning must be stolen by fast working at the earliest possible moment.

now precede ordinary stubble-cleaning by stubble-burning whenever these particular weeds show signs of gaining the upper hand.

Where such drastic measures are not to be practised—and stubble-burning is rather a hazardous operation unless there are plenty of people available to keep the fire under full control—stubble-cleaning ought to start even before the stools are carried. If the season is dry, the land will begin to bake as soon as the corn is cut, and by the time carrying is finished may be so hot that implements have very little effect. If the stools are properly

placed so that tractor and implement can work between the more than three-quarters of the land can be broken before it has had time to bake. Moreover, if the surface has been broken before rain, when it does come, will penetrate very much more easily. In a wet season, on the other hand, stools may stand so long that no time at all can afterwards be spared for preliminary cleaning operations. In any case, there will be so much ploughing to get on with this year that the time for stubble-cleaning must be stolen by fast working at the earliest possible moment.

FARMING NOTES

THRESHING IN THE FIELDS—£6 A TON WANTED FOR POTATOES—ELIGIBLE GARDENERS—SUPPLIES OF FERTILISERS

THRESHING machines are already busy, and a good many farmers seem to have decided to take advantage of the dry weather to thresh in the field. This holds up harvest to some extent, but threshing straight away saves time later on, and if there is not a big acreage of corn on the farm, threshing in the field is sound business. In most years, wheat threshed straight away contains 15 per cent. or more of moisture, which, of course, all goes to swell the yield of grain per acre. But this year the summer has been so dry that the new wheat contains probably no more than 13 per cent. of moisture. Millers are well pleased with its dryness and also its hardness. Some samples can be compared with Australian wheat. Apart from the farmer's need for a cash return as soon as possible after harvest, early threshing has an added attraction this year, because the same fixed price for home-grown wheat is apparently to rule throughout the season. New wheat sold in August makes 14s. 6d. per hundredweight, and if it is put into rick and exposed to the ravages of rats and other wastage, it will be worth no more than 14s. 6d. per hundredweight when it is kept into the New Year and threshed then. It is surprising that the fixed price has not been adjusted on a sliding scale through the autumn and winter, so as to compensate the farmer who keeps his corn in rick. In practice the number of threshing sets will set a limit to the quantity of corn which can be threshed early in the season. Not everyone can be served first.

A good deal of grumbling is heard about the present scale of potato prices. A drastic reduction was made in August which left growers who cater for the early potato trade a very meagre return. It is not quite clear why the maximum prices were reduced so drastically, but one probable reason was the Government's desire to ensure a good stock of potatoes being kept for marketing later in the season. Although yields per acre have been light so far owing to the dry weather, there does not seem to have been any lack of supplies sent to the markets. But it is clear that if producers are to obtain a remunerative return for the season as a whole, prices will have to be increased in the autumn and winter. Lifting and selling straight out of the field is the cheapest method of disposal. Clamping potatoes and then handling them again before sale in the winter or spring adds many shillings per ton to the producer's costs even if his potatoes keep sound and there is little wastage in the clamp. Everyone says that a big increase in the potato acreage will be needed next year. If so, it will be necessary to guarantee farmers a definite price for potatoes through the season. There is much uncertainty about potato prices at the present time, and a definite assurance that prices will average £6 or £7 per ton, whatever is considered the fair figure, would let growers and prospective growers know where they stand.

The gardener who is engaged whole time in the vegetable garden is a key man in the food production campaign. Yet

reservation for gardeners in private employment was withdrawn from the Schedule of Reserved Occupations at the beginning of August, and only men employed as market garden workers were left on the reserved list. This meant that quite a large number of gardeners in private employment would have been called up for military service, and food production would undoubtedly have suffered. It has now been decided that an employer who seems likely to lose a useful gardener who is employed whole time for all practical purposes on food production can apply to the county War Agricultural Executive Committee for a certificate that the man concerned should be regarded as a market garden worker. The employer will have to show that substitution by an older man or by a woman is impracticable. This requirement should not, however, stand in the way of a good man who is responsible for any considerable area of vegetable production being kept at his job.

As the war has developed since the spring, the supply of fertilisers for use on the land is bound to be affected. Until France collapsed, we were still getting in considerable quantities of potash from close behind the Maginot Line. This supply, of course, has dried up. Germany was also another supplier. All we can count on now is supplies from Palestine. The Dead Sea potash is a highly concentrated product, and such supplies, as they arrive, will be made useful. It will be necessary to reserve them for use on potatoes and such crops, which really need potash, and also corn in the light land soils where potash deficiency is liable to be a limiting factor. So as to ensure that the potash which is available is used to the best advantage and not squandered in compound mixtures where it is not absolutely necessary, no compounds containing less than 5 per cent. potash are to be manufactured. This should allow additional quantities to be diverted to crops and land that really need potash, and should give a maximum return in food production.

The supplies of phosphates are better. There is a good stock of phosphate rock in the country, and the makers of superphosphate are working to full capacity. Large quantities of basic slag have been taken up by farmers in recent weeks and there is now some delay in getting delivery from the steel-works. The increase in steel manufacture has not made a big increase in the output of basic slag. The steel used for shells contains more impurities than the steel used for constructional purposes. Apparently they help to make the shell burst better. There should be plenty of nitrogenous fertilisers for everyone. The works making sulphate of ammonia have considerably increased their output and there are now supplies ready for delivery to farms. Even if sulphate of ammonia is not needed for actual application until the spring, it is a wise precaution to take delivery now. Modern sulphate of ammonia will keep perfectly well in the barn, and it is stored safest on the farm where it will ultimately be wanted.

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W.C.H.1 40

For Spraying at all Seasons
USE

**"FOUR OAKS"
GOLD
MEDAL
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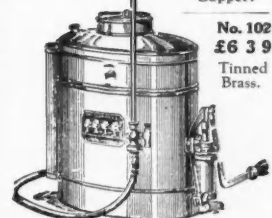
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IN BRITAIN NOW

By
ISABEL CRAMPTON

I CANNOT imagine that there is anyone now who is not awake to the importance of saving tonnage in our ships, whether of foods or other goods, but though that and other factors, such as the present sorry state of France, will affect some types of dress, there is no denying that where our coats and skirts and country overcoats are concerned we shall be very nearly as well off as ever this year without bringing a thing from overseas, though prices must rise a little when the new tax comes into force. At the moment I cannot think of a better investment for the woman who spends much time out of doors than the beautifully tailored suit from Messrs. Studd and Millington (67, Chancery Lane, W.C.2) which I have had photographed for this page. I think that you can see the detail, the excellent cut of the skirt, which is pleasingly easy without fullness and has a good deep pleat in front and none at the back, where, to my mind, they are never successful. The coat is fitted neatly to the waist by a series of small darts that remind one rather of the effect of the old Norfolk jacket, and the revers are classical in their line, neither too high nor too low, while the shoulders are quite unexaggerated. The point of all this is that here is a coat and skirt which may well last its wearer for years without looking old-fashioned. It is, as it were, standard, and as it happens to be made in real Harris tweed woven by the crofters and stamped with the special mark of this industry, it is



COUNTRY
HATS
HAVE
SELDOM
BEEN
MORE
ATTRAC-
TIVE
(Studd and
Millington)

no more likely to wear out than it is to go out of fashion. The tweed in the picture is of a pleasant light brown and oatmeal check mixture, but there are many patterns to choose from. Both the hat worn with the Harris tweed and the felt with the feather mount shown on the left come from the same shop.

WILD HARVESTS

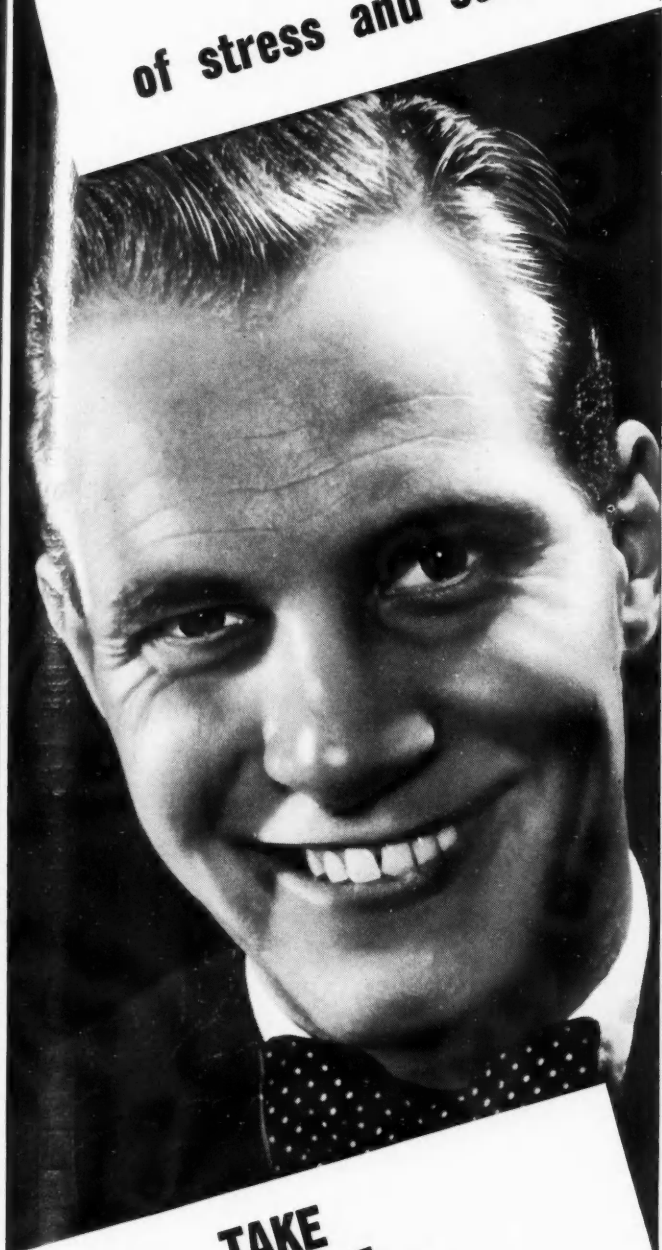
One of the things that have often made me a little uncomfortable when I have been down in the country at this time of year has been the terrible waste of natural foods. The average English cottager and the average kitchen gardener waste enough in lettuce and cabbage leaves and the trimmings of root vegetables to keep a family in soup, a most economical dish in any household where a coal fire, always burning, provides for long, slow cooking, but a little less so perhaps where cooking by gas and electricity have to be considered. It was not of this as it were private waste that I was thinking,

Dover Street Studios

A COAT AND SKIRT IN HARRIS TWEED THAT IS EXCELLENT FOR COUNTRY WEAR, AND SMART AS IT IS, WILL, BOTH IN LINE AND MATERIAL, GIVE LONG SATISFACTION (Studd and Millington)

however, but of the tons and tons of wild blackberries, sloes, bullaces, nuts, that remain ungathered every autumn, like the hop tendrils and nettles and dandelions of spring. It is a real relief to hear that many country people are organising parties of their friends and local evacuees to get in the blackberry crop which promises to be a good one. It is a fruit that has to be dealt with at once, but makes excellent jam or jelly or can be bottled or used at once in pies, or very nicely in a blackberry version of the Welsh apple cake that is made in a flat dish with a pastry lid, when it is good for picnic lunches and so on as a tart never can be. Talking of apples reminds me that though they are the favourite fruit to use with blackberries, it is best to stew them by themselves, as sometimes the effect of the blackberry juice is to keep the apples hard, no matter how long you cook them. By the bye, the extra allowance of preserving sugar, though really intended for the plum crop, may be used for any fruit, wild or cultivated, so long as it is preserved for winter use. In a new book, "They Cannot Ration These," reviewed on another page, is a simple recipe for making blackberry wine which sounds extraordinarily good.

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MINISTRY



OF FOOD

THE WEEK'S

FOOD

FACTS No 5

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advertisements now. Pin them
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Do you feel, as many women do, that war-time housekeeping would be easier if only you could count on getting a little special advice from a kitchen expert? Here's your chance — without trouble, without cost, without even having to leave your own home. Just switch on your radio every morning at 8.15. You'll hear the answers to your own kind of food problems.

ON THE KITCHEN FRONT

HOW TO USE OLD

VEGETABLES.



Garden Peas that have grown hard through lack of water or tough with age, can be made into excellent soup. Rub a small onion through a sieve

and boil it for half-an-hour with your peas in enough water to cover. Then add milk or stock or both to suit your own taste. A little cornflour, carefully blended, stirred into the soup, will thicken it.

Scarlet Runners. If your beans have grown too old and tough, boil the *inner seeds*—like haricots—with a good dash of salt and pepper and, if possible, a little margarine.

HEALTH HINT.

Try mustard and cress, water-cress, or even young nasturtium leaves instead of jam at tea-time. It makes a change; it's better for you; and it saves the country's sugar.

PULPING PLUMS

FOR WINTER USE.

Pulping is an excellent way of preserving the plums, now so plentiful, for winter use. Pulping needs no sugar. It is a perfectly simple process: Just stew the plums thoroughly in a saucepan with a little water. When cooked, pour them into *hot*, clean bottles (or any receptacles that can be made airtight). Seal *immediately* with hot lids. If you have no lids, use two or three layers of paper brushed over with flour paste. For large quantities of plums, you may find it easiest to use a heated big crock. Either cork it or cover it with a layer of mutton fat or paraffin wax.

HOW TO SAVE BREAD.

First, you must curb your liking for fresh bread; always wait at least 24 hours before cutting a newly-baked loaf. Don't keep it in a closely-sealed tin. If you use a biscuit tin, punch a few holes in the lid. Brown bread is best wrapped in muslin and kept on a shelf.

THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, LONDON, S.W.1

RECENT NOVELS: BOOKS OF THE NEAR FUTURE

WHEN in "One Pair of Hands" Miss Monica Dickens told of her adventures as a cook-general she showed herself possessed of an acute and humorous power of observation and of great vitality; she could clearly, as Sam Weller would say, "keep the pot a-bilin'." In her first novel (MARIANA, Michael Joseph, 8s. 6d.) she exhibits the same valuable qualities, and yet they are not in themselves enough to make a wholly satisfactory book. She will write a far better one some day when she allows herself to look at the world with less sophisticated eyes and resists a temptation to too knowing descriptions of rather flashy, second-rate creatures. She has yet to learn—and indeed it is asking a great deal—her great-grandfather's art of laughing at unpleasant people so as to make them a joy. That she can write with simplicity and feeling is apparent from her first chapter and her last. Her picture, too, of a child's love for a holiday home and its delight in the journey there, wherein everything happens every time in the same sacred and immutable order, is a real little piece of human nature. That, after all, is the essential thing, and it is permissible to feel a little disappointment that there is not more of it, for it is worth all the smartness in the world.

INDIAN CARICATURE

NIGHT IN BOMBAY, by Louis Bromfield (Cassell, 9s.), is a pathological novel which leaves one clamouring for decontamination. Mr. Bromfield has the gift of vivid description, and he writes well, but like a country woman of his own who perpetrated a best-seller by her wholly inaccurate picture of a sub-continent inhabited by three hundred and fifty million people of differing races and religions, after a cursory visit of three months, he sees only what he expects to see, and his characters are mostly obsessed by the one fierce urge to break the seventh commandment, except when they are intoxicated. Mr. Bromfield has the habit of putting real living characters into his books. The eminent scientist and his attractive wife are more kindly dealt with than the lady so fantastically caricatured in "The Rains Came," but it is in doubtful taste to put your hosts into your inaccurate (because imperfectly informed) books, and the eminent scientist is made to prescribe flagrant transgression of Mr. Bromfield's favourite seventh commandment as a means of healing the most typical neurotic illness from which the only other good man in the book suffers.

The author is lamentably ignorant of the creeds of Hindus (sometimes called Bengali) and Moslems, as his observations show. Nor does he know anything of the Parsis. The Maharani of Chaudragar is at one moment a "prisoner" in purdah, and then one sees her drunk at a gambling party in the dissolute house of another "royalty," where an English jockey is banker, and Indian men servants support her inebriate bulk to a car driven by a Gurkha.

The author misses all the beauty of India, its history, its philosophies, for his characters mix only in the society of international harlots and gambling inebriates. But one might ask why hang the hideous jewel of their vices on the neck of a land into which these are but western importations?

ROADFARING

No world is more shaken by war than the world of books, and this is not only because of paper shortage and taxation, but because writers can seldom write fast enough to keep up either with the movements of history or with the minor changes of war-time existence. Even if the war has not begun, and the subject is hardly touched on, as in Mr. Victor Canning's **MR. FINCHLEY TAKES THE ROAD** (Hodder and Stoughton, 9s.), it is impossible for us to avoid translating the book into war-time terms. For instance, a yellow caravan with scarlet wheels can no longer suggest to us peaceful summer lanes and a leisurely hunt for a house in the country; it makes us think what a conspicuous and unsafe shelter it would be with Nazi raiders about. So it can only be said that here is a novel which would have been pleasant, comfortable reading a year ago—and may be the same a year hence, for there is enough sound, good-humoured, varied stuff in it to keep it alive in happier times.

UP TO THE MINUTE

It seems plain that Mr. Bernard Newman began **SIEGFRIED** (Gollancz, 7s. 6d.) before we lost interest in Siegfried and his hot lines. But with remarkable agility he has retrieved that situation in the last half-dozen chapters of the book, which he added when on special service with the B.E.F. in France. No wonder the Censor who had to pass those chapters, travelled miles to meet the author and learn more! For, in them, Mr. Newman provides exciting explanations about a notorious English spy case, as well as about Lord Hawtrey and code messages. But Papa Pontivy, a French detective of whom Mr. Newman seems inordinately fond, somehow fails to arouse the same admiration or affection in the reader.

BOOKS EXPECTED

President Roosevelt contributes "An Estimate of the Situation" to a book to be published by Messrs. Macmillan towards the end of the month. It is called **DEFENSE FOR AMERICA: THE VIEWS OF FOURTEEN CONTRIBUTORS**. On September 10th another interesting book is to appear, also from Messrs. Macmillan. It is called **TWO GENERATIONS**, and has a preface and is edited by Mr. Osbert Sitwell. It consists of the journals of two women of his family, one of whom was born in 1824 and the other covering four years, 1873-77, when the writer was in her teens. It should be a very attractive volume. On the same date the same firm is to publish **A HISTORY OF AFGHANISTAN**, by Sir Percy Sykes. On September 3rd the Cambridge University Press plan to publish the first three volumes of a new series called "Current Problems," of which the general editor is Dr. Ernest Barker; they are **POLITICAL PROPAGANDA**, by Professor F. C. Bartlett, **PROBLEMS OF THE BALTIC**, by Mr. W. F. Reddaway and **THE DEMOCRATIC IDEAL IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND**, by Mr. I. Thomson. Messrs. Lane are publishing Professor Stephen Leacock's new book, **OUR BRITISH EMPIRE**.

THE CURLEW CRIES, a poem of Yorkshire by Mr. F. Redwood Anderson, is to come towards the end of next month from the Oxford University Press; and a new novel by Mr. C. S. Forster, **THE EARTHLY PARADISE**, is due next week from Messrs. Michael Joseph.

SOLUTION to No. 552

The winner of this crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of August 24th, will be announced next week.

LINCOLNSHIRE
GOEBEBAOE
ANYTHINGUMBER
IAWTONO
NELSONSUDBURY
STRIBHNSNA
BAYKEEPERIDOL
OAKAKA
ROSEASCENTVAC
OUTTLRLAA
UNFURLSPALLID
GFISSPIIE
HOOKSUNCLESAM
LTSAAZEY
SKYETERRIERS

ACROSS.

- 1 and 3. Manufacturing process not confined to the heavy industries (two words, 4, 10)
9. He could hardly be called a colourless peer (4)
10. Stretcher-bearers (10)
12. Doubtless he played the goat (5)
13. At the opposite end from the outlet (6)
15. This would be a real brother, not half (3)
18. Not strains after hay-making (5)
19. Not a West Country wine: there's water there (9)
22. "Surer rate" (anagr.) (9)
24. Spells black or white (5)
25. Rabble (3)
26. Soda or potash, for instance (6)
29. Though they make seven, they are not odd (5)
32. "Man into cur" (anagr.) (10)
33. Most of 24 and part of 1 down (4)

34 and 35. Its toll is of the dead (three words, 3, 7, 4).

DOWN.

1. He deals with offenders, though beginning with wise men (10)
2. Some, of course, see through them when they see them (10)
4. "As dry as the ——— biscuit After a voyage." (9)
—Shakespeare (9)
5. Intimidate (5)
6. This shot may be a big noise at Bisley (5)
7. It sounds a very small island (4)
8. What the clutch fits into (4)
11. They are cold and killing (6)
14. A shot altogether in the past (3)
16. "Get a conger" (anagr.) (10)
17. Showing no movement on yesterday's price? (10)
20. Colour that emerges from upsetting oil among vermin (9)
21. More insensible? No. (6)
23. For scent this river would come after a thousand (3)
27. Keats' "smooth-lipp'd serpent" (5)
28. Coins for the high priest (5)
30. To propel a boat or a ball (4)
31. "We must be ——— or die, who speak the tongue That Shakespeare spake." (4)
—Wordsworth (4).

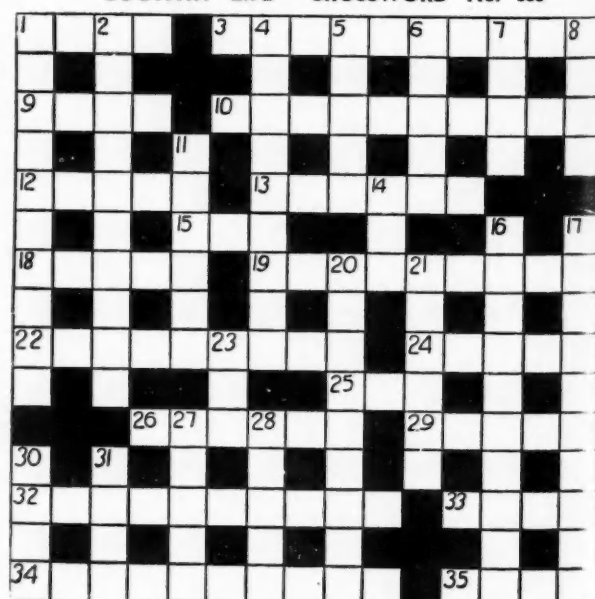
"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 553

A prize of books to the value of 2 guineas, drawn from those published by COUNTRY LIFE, will be awarded for the first correct solution to this puzzle opened in this office. Solutions should be addressed (in a closed envelope) "Crossword No. 553, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," and must reach this office not later than the **first post on the morning of Thursday, September 5th, 1940.**

The winner of Crossword No. 551 is

Mrs. Charles Goodwin, Racefield, Altrincham, Cheshire

"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 553



Name

Address



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market



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CIGARETTES

10 FOR 6^D
Reszke
NORS
ped as
well as Plain

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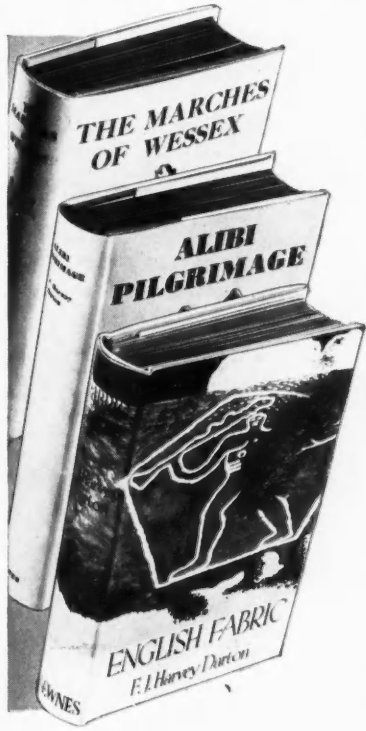
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